■ Elan / C1
Catanduanes: Beaches, cuisine, local color make this isle alternate paradise

■ World / A10
US indicts 3 for scheming to pay kickbacks to Saddam

■ Super / E1
How to make your own quality sex video

■ News / A2
Jueteng much worse, now a P13-B industry, says bishop

■ World / A12
Monaco bids final farewell to Prince Rainier

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, April 16, 2005 ★★ 100 pages 13 sections Vol. 19 No. 127 P18
website: www.inq7.net

SC ruling: Whatever you text can be used against you

By Armand N. Nocum

TEXTERS, be warned: The Supreme Court has ruled that text messages are now admissible as evidence in court.

In a precedent-setting unanimous decision issued on April 12, the tribunal affirmed the dismissal order on an official of the Court of

SC RULING/ A21

US scientific conference falls for gibberish prank

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—A bunch of computer-generated gibberish masquerading as an academic paper has been accepted at a scientific conference in a victory for pranksters at the Massachusetts In-

US SCIENTIFIC/ A22

Susan unites GMA foes

FPJ widow hailed as opposition symbol

REM ZAMORA

"REFRESHING alternative," militants call Susan Roces, who apparently has what it takes to pull together both sides of the political opposition on Thursday night, the first time opposition stalwarts get together since their bitter fighting over their respective presidential bets in the May elections last year.

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Norman Bordadora and Philip C. Tubeza

WHAT the late movie idol Fernando Poe Jr. failed to do, his widow just might "inspire" to bring about.

From a press conference late Thursday in which she rejected the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo, actress Susan Roces went straight to a meeting of the United National Opposition where she was hailed as a "symbol" and an "inspiration."

The UNO meeting, held at the same Club Filipino venue as the Roces press conference, brought together for the first time some of the rival opposition factions from the May 2004 elections.

The main opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino party broke up last year when LDP chair Sen. Edgardo Angara endorsed Poe as the opposition standard-bearer against Sen. Panfilo Lacson, an LDP member.

Several House members allied with Lacson—San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico and Makati Rep. Butz Aquino—showed up at the meeting. *(See related story on Page A22.)*

"This is a major breakthrough toward a truly united opposition," said San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito.

Though Roces has said that she had no interest in politics, "she will be there to support the opposition, she will be our inspiration," said Ejercito.

Roces was now the "symbol of the United Opposition's quest for the truth," he said.

Earlier Thursday, Roces said the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency would "remain unanswered in the minds of millions of Filipinos" because "we were not given the

SUSAN/ A22

EDWIN BACASMAS

BAREFOOT in the sand, and with raindrops on her face, President Arroyo arrives with her husband at Barangay Yapak, Boracay, to guest at the groundbreaking rites of the $60-M Shangri-La Hotel and Resorts on Friday.

RP soldier in UN peace force slain

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—A Filipino soldier serving with the United Nations peacekeeping force was shot and killed on the fringes of a slum where troops have increasingly clashed with politically aligned gangs, officials said.

Staff Sgt. Antonio Batomalaque, a member of the 147-member Philippine contingent, was killed a day after Philippine Ambassador Lauro Baja arrived in the troubled Caribbean country as part of a UN Security Council mission.

Batomalaque died instantly after a bullet pierced his helmet, striking him in the head, a UN official said. He died at about 4 p.m. Thursday, Haiti time (4 a.m. yesterday in Manila).

The shooting occurred in an area dominated by supporters of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Philippine military and UN officials in Haiti said.

Batomalaque became the third peacekeeper killed in action since the deployment of UN forces last

RP SOLDIER/ A22

PNP 'recycled' order: Get those loose firearms

By Luige A. del Puerto

AUTHORITIES are cracking down again on owners of unregistered firearms and private armed groups nationwide, apparently in reaction to the broad-daylight murder of former Pasig City Rep. Henry Lanot on Wednesday.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao announced yesterday in a statement that field commanders had been directed to immediately "intensify the campaign against loose firearms and the dismantling and arrest of private armed groups, unauthorized bodyguards and armed goons."

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the PNP on Thursday to "come up with a special order of battle for guns for hire and to check the proliferation of loose firearms that allow these heinous killings to be planned and executed."

But ban-the-gun crusader Nandy Pacheco described the move as palliative and recycled.

"This is an old song," Pacheco said. "They do that every time something like this (Lanot's murder) happens. We are just being fooled."

Some 800,000 guns are registered in the country, the INQUIRER said in an earlier report, quoting PNP records in 2004. But the number of unlicensed

POLICE/ A20

Palace to Congress: Just give us the ₱60 billion

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

JUST give us P60 billion.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima stressed that this was the government's bottom line as the congressional bicameral conference committee prepared to meet to reconcile the two versions of the value-added tax reform measure. *(See different versions on Page A21.)*

Purisima was invited to a preparatory meeting of the committee yesterday to work out with the Senate and the House an "acceptable" estimate of the revenues that each version of the bill would be expected to raise.

"I don't want to discuss the specifics, but clearly we'd like a bill that will give us the most chance of raising P60 billion or more in revenues so that we can consolidate our fiscal position," Purisima told reporters before going in to meet the legislators at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

He said the two Senate and House versions of the bill actually aimed to do just that but using different approaches.

"So if we get the best features of both versions then I think we're in good shape," he said.

Yesterday's meeting was aimed at laying down a "common framework" for the tedious task of reconciling the differing ver-

PALACE/ A21

WHICH ONE WILL THE CONCLAVE BLESS? Which one will be the power brokers, kingmakers or "great electors?" These cardinals have historically played key roles in deciding a papal election. One begins on Monday, April 18, the first conclave in the 21st century. In the picture, cardinals assemble for the General Congregation at the Vatican on Thursday.

AFP/OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Rivals for papacy: Religious orders and regular clergy

By Lito B. Zulueta

ROME—The rivalry among Jesuits, Dominicans and Franciscans is expected to spill over to the papal conclave on Monday as several of the perceived contenders for the papacy are members of religious orders.

"I would not be surprised if the pope this time would be a religious," said Fr. Antonio Pernia, superior general of the Society of the Divine Word, one of the Church's largest missionary orders.

Historically, a pope coming from the religious orders is rare. Most of the popes, indeed most bishops, come from the secular or regular clergy, who belong to no religious houses.

"It is said that simply by being religious they (the religious cardinals) disqualify themselves," Pernia joked.

But interviews around the Vatican indicate that if there's a real rivalry for the throne left vacant by the death of Pope John Paul II, it is between the religious and the regular clergy.

Many religious complain they have been shabbily treated by the regular clergy, the bishops and the Vatican bureaucracy under John Paul II.

Religious orders are special communities with special rules of prayer and virtues; unlike the regular clergy, who are governed by bishops, they are governed by abbots, priors or superiors.

The religious are communities with a special focus or apostolate, such as the Benedictines (prayer and

RIVALS/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Second FRONTPAGE
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Jueteng bigger now, says bishop

By Christian V. Esguerra

MORE than four years after former President Joseph Estrada was impeached for allegedly receiving jueteng money and was subsequently ousted from power, jueteng operations in the country have continued unabated.

A Catholic archbishop claimed yesterday that jueteng operations are now more rampant under the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo than during the time of Estrada whose downfall due to the jueteng scandal catapulted her to power in 2001.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said the worsening condition is reflected in the "comparatively few and rare" government officials who are consistently fighting to rid the country of the centuries-old gambling.

"This highlights the fact that illegal gambling is more rampant now in the country than during the previous administration," he said in a press conference yesterday.

The outspoken Cruz heads the "Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng," a Church-led multi-sectoral watchdog against illegal gambling.

The archbishop noted that more public officials are now "willing recipients and grateful beneficiaries of gambling payolas."

Jueteng, in fact, is now a "P13-billion industry," said Garrie David, another top leader of the group, citing reports from the Philippine National Police covering the last three years.

Cruz assailed Ms Arroyo for allegedly not doing enough to root out the game which is immensely popular among the poor.

"She has repeatedly and loudly assailed corruption especially in the government," he said. "But the (crusade) is still waiting for her to clearly speak and decidedly act against corrupt and corrupting illegal gambling in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao."

"It was not enough that she merely agreed to sign RA 9287, the legislation putting more teeth to the existing law against jueteng and other forms of illegal gambling, he said.

Jueteng figured quite prominently in last presidential elections, following allegations that Ms Arroyo had tapped the police and the military to channel jueteng collections to her campaign kitty.

In separate interviews with the INQUIRER in the past, a number of police generals said there might be truth to the allegation.

Cruz was also appalled over Vice President Noli de Castro's failure to act against jueteng.

The archbishop and his peers were still awaiting for the former broadcaster to keep his "word of honor" after he purportedly promised on March 30, 2004 to "eradicate illegal numbers games in the country if he was elected into office."

He scored the Vice President for ignoring two invitations to show up at his group's press conferences.

Even the Department of Interior and Local Government and the National Police Commission were not helping in the crusade against jueteng, David said.

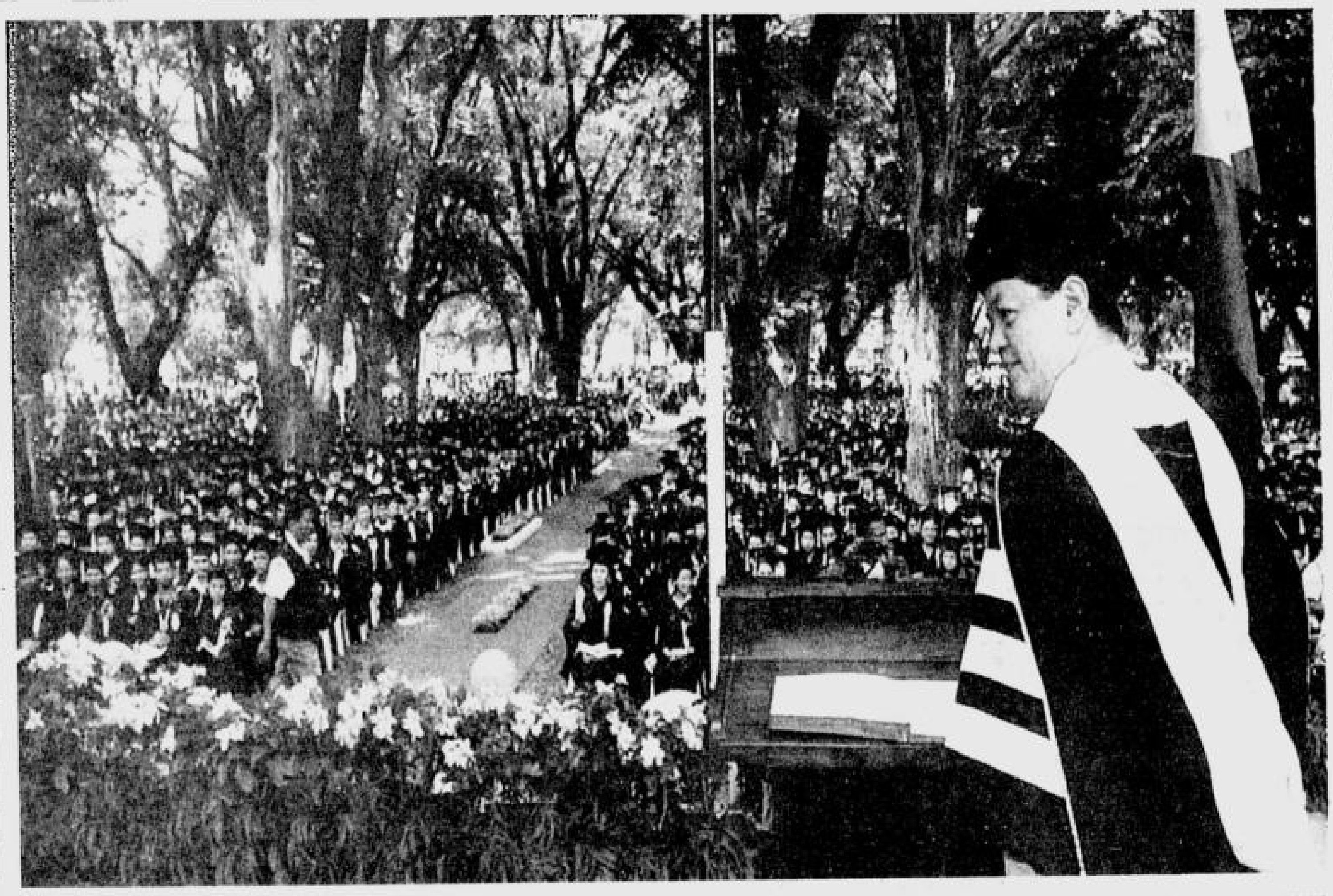
A few days after his appointment, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes was even quoted as saying that he was in favor of legalizing jueteng.

Amid mounting criticisms, Reyes was forced to backtrack and announce that wiping out jueteng would also be among his top priorities.

Despite his complaints, Cruz and his group will award a total of 10 governors, including Grace Padaca of Isabela, and 107 mayors for their campaign against jueteng.

"They all have one thing in common: they are all expressly and openly against jueteng and masiao in their respective areas of responsibility," Cruz said. "They refuse to be corrupted by gambling lords with their big, fat and ready gambling payolas."

There are no awardees from Metro Manila.



EGAY MONTANA / CONRIBUTED PHOTO

GREEN RITES AT CLSU
Vice President Noli Kabayan De Castro addresses 900 graduating students of the Central Luzon State University in Munoz, Nueva Ecija Thursday. The university conferred on the former broadcaster and senator the degree of doctor of humanities for public service.

REMEDIAL CLASSES

Clueless teachers sent back to school

By Alcuin Papa

IT'S BACK to school for public school teachers this summer.

The Department of Education said yesterday they were conducting summer classes for select public school teachers nationwide to enable them to have a "full grasp" of the subjects they were teaching and to improve their teaching techniques.

Education undersecretary Fe Hidalgo said majority of public school teachers were teaching subjects they had little knowledge of and were not their majors in college.

"More than 50 percent of teachers in high school are teaching subjects they did not major in. This is why we are intensifying our training programs," Hidalgo said.

She added that they were now conducting remedial classes or refresher courses for teachers to give them a "run through" of subjects they would be teaching. These courses included tips on how to teach more effectively.

"We have programs on teaching reading effectively, assessment, curriculum updates, the training of non-majors teaching science, math, chemistry and biology," Hidalgo said.

She added that teaching English for teachers would be offered the whole year because those who finished the training would be required to teach other teachers.

Hidalgo said that for the coming school year, they plan to hire an additional 10,000 public school teachers who majored in different important core subjects such as math, science and English.

Education Secretary Florencio Abad had warned that Vietnam would overtake the Philippines in five years in the area of education if reforms were not implemented in the local education system.

JOIN THE UNRESERVED PUBLIC AUCTION OF
AUCTION IN MALINTA
TRUCKS • HEAVY EQUIPMENT • MISC. ITEMS
On these dates:
APR. 22 - 25, 2005
STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
Inspection dates:
APR. 16 - 21, 2005
1 of 110 Excavators — CAT 320 EXCAVATOR, LATE MODEL
1 of 30 Bulldozers — KOMATSU D65P BULLDOZER
1 of 30 Wheel Loaders — TCM L34 WHEEL LOADER
1 of 15 Motor Graders — KOMATSU GD405A-2 MOTOR GRADER WITH SCARIFIER
1 of 85 Dump Trucks — ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCK SINGLE EYE
1 of 15 Tractor Heads — FUSO 6W TRACTOR HEAD LATE MODEL
1 of 40 Dropside Cargoes — ISUZU 10W ALUM. HI-SIDE DROPSIDE W/ POWER TAILGATE
1 of 40 Dropside Cargoes — ISUZU ELF DROPSIDE W/ CRANE
1 of 240 Closed Vans — FUSO CANTER ALUM. CLOSED VAN, LATE MODEL
1 of 25 Wing Vans — ISUZU FORWARD NRR ALUM. WING VAN
1 of 35 Buses — NISSAN CITY BUS
ISUZU 10T CABIN ASSY
For inquiries please call:
(02)984-6741 • (02)984-6753 • (02)984-0215/16
Trucks & Equipment Financing available thru:
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. • Tel (02) 858-8888
Email us: info@auctioninmalinta.com • Visit our website: www.auctioninmalinta.com

Palace tells Gomez: Just show proof you paid taxes

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

INSTEAD of imputing ill motives on the government's drive against tax evaders, actor-TV host Richard Gomez should just show copies of his past income tax return to clear up his tax evasion charge.

This was Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's unsolicited advice to Gomez who claimed that his inclusion in the Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) list of tax evaders was "politically motivated" because of his affiliation with the opposition.

"It's easy to answer the BIR charges. [If] he (Gomez) just showed his income tax payments, then it's over. But if he cannot show any income tax return for the past years, he has a problem," said Bunye in an interview with dwIZ radio.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita seconded Bunye's advice to Gomez. "If he is paying his taxes properly, he can explain to the BIR. This should not be taken in a bad way," said Ermita.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself refused to get entangled in the issue of taxation as a form of political harassment.

"I will just ask the Bureau of Internal Revenue to bring out the documents," said the President during a press conference in Iloilo.

Ermita said there were no deliberate efforts to pick on Gomez. "It just happened that he is the most prominent personality on the list," Ermita said. "The President does not need to be informed why (Gomez) was first on the list. I don't even know if she has copy of the list."

Ermita said the government was not only targeting show biz personalities, it was also after businessmen and professionals. "This should serve as a warning that anyone could be next on the BIR's list."

Gomez is facing tax evasion charges for the years 2000 to 2003 filed by the BIR and the Department of Finance under its Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program which had netted a number of entertainment and sports personalities and businessmen.

From 2000 to 2003, BIR records showed that Gomez only made one tax payment—P786,795 in documentary stamp taxes.

"We have an ongoing campaign against tax evaders, everybody knows that. In fact, that is what our senators and congressmen want us to do—improve our collection," Ermita said.

The government is stepping up its campaign against tax evaders to shore up revenues and keep the budget deficit more manageable. This is part of administrative measures the President is carrying out to complement Congress' move to raise taxes and generate additional P80 billion revenues.

BIR missed target for March

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) yesterday said its collections in March were 2.2 percent below target at P35.98 billion pesos.

But the March collections were 7.08 percent higher than the revenues of P33.6 billion in the same month of 2004, BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares told Reuters.

The shortfall in the March target of P36.8 billion was partly due to the Bureau of Treasury's decision to withdraw its offer to sell P12 billion worth of T-bills in the last week of March, Henares said.

The Treasury rejected all bids for its T-bills, which are subject to 20 percent withholding tax, on March 28 due to high premiums demanded by the local bond market before the central bank raised its policy rates by 25 basis points last week.

The BIR, which contributes about two-thirds of total state revenues, is struggling to rid itself of rampant corruption that has depressed collections. It has also set up a programme to go after prominent tax cheats.

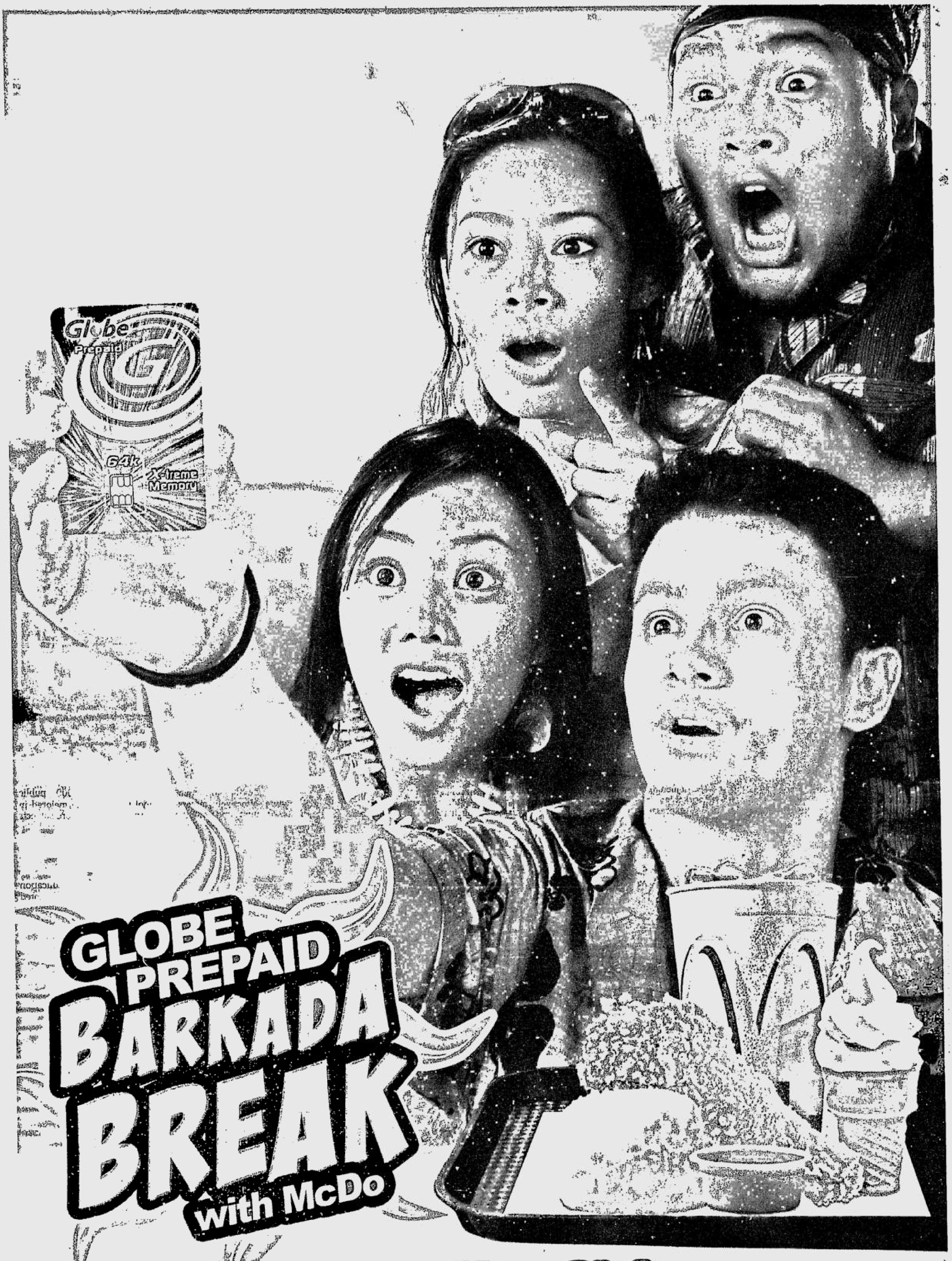
Collections from large taxpayers, who make up more than half of the BIR's total, beat the target by 3.5 percent in March and were 6.15 percent higher than a year earlier, Henares said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo wants Congress to pass a package of six reform measures aimed at shoring up revenues by at least P80 billion a year and easing the government's budget deficit burden.

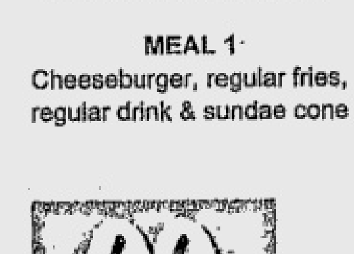
A key part of the reform package—an amended value-added tax—is set to be debated on Monday in a joint congressional pa tasked with merging the versions of the bill passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Reuters

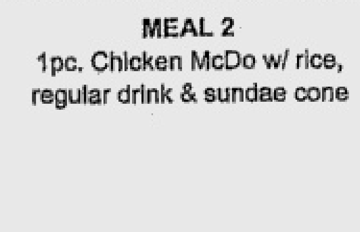
BEST COPY AVAILABLE



Mag Globe na & get a McDo meal FREE!



MEAL 1
Cheeseburger, regular fries,
regular drink & sundae cone



MEAL 2
1pc. Chicken McDo w/ rice,
regular drink & sundae cone

1. Just buy a **Globe Prepaid 128XL, X-treme Memory** or **Kapamilya SIM.**
2. Make your first call or text.
3. Reload at least ₱25 (Share-a-Load transactions not qualified). You will get a promo text from 2245 within 3 days informing you of the McDo meal you're entitled to.
4. Present your promo text and SIM casing at any McDo outlet (dine-in only) to get your free meal!*

Purchase SIM until May 31 and reload until June 4, 2005.

For details, text INFO to 2245 for FREE.

Join the WEEKLY RAFFLE
for a chance to win a **TRIP FOR 4**
to Camiguin via Cagayan de Oro
thru Air Philippines

Inclusive of 2 nights accommodation at Paras Beach resort, daily breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 dinner and an island-hopping tour!

Register by texting
REG <First Name>/<Last Name>/<Address> to 2245.
ex. REG Tony/Reyes/5 Santol St., Project 4 QC

i love ko 'to

*Redemption of meal must be done as one transaction. McDonald's reserves the right to fulfill redemption thru another store or another day depending on availability of products. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2069, series of 2005. See flyers for details.

making a great summer possible Globe HANDYPHONE

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAUL II

RP joins 120 countries for 'FamilyFest '05'

TODAY is a red-letter day for humanity.

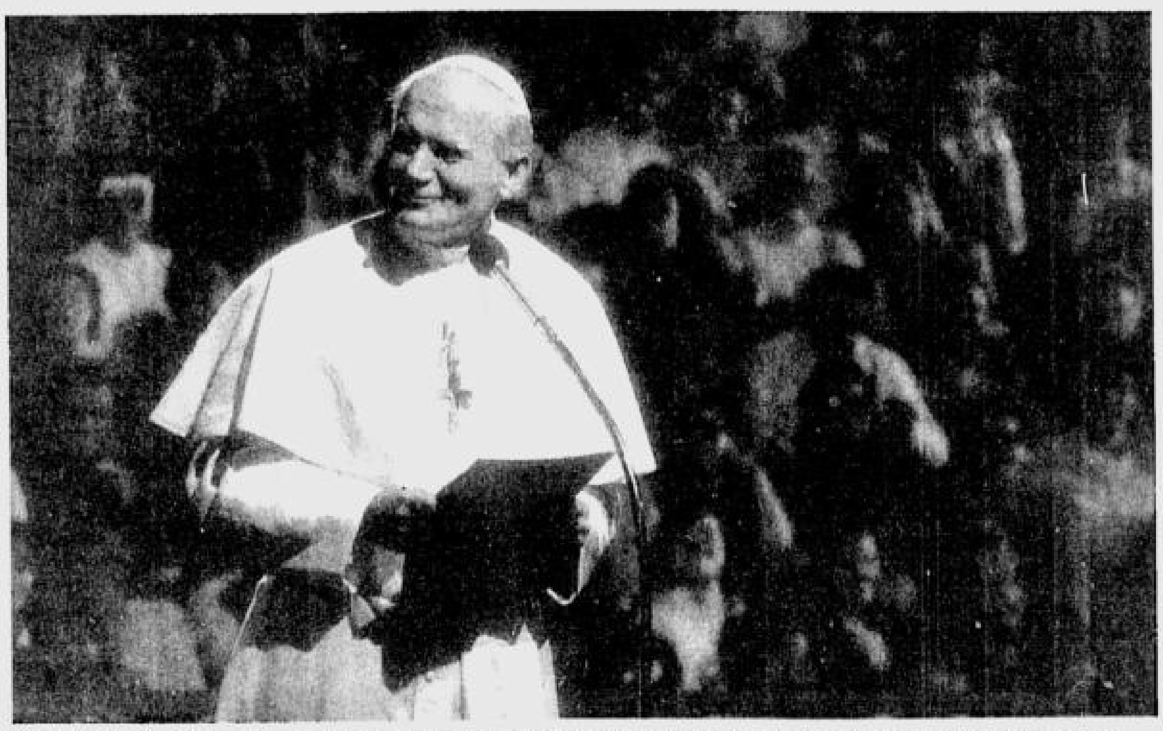
Thirty-eight satellites are set to link millions of families in 120 countries in the celebration of "FamilyFest 2005: To The Pope of Families," an unprecedented live and interactive tribute to the late Pope John Paul II.

The global event, celebrated today in 193 cities, will be beamed in the Philippines at 9:30 p.m. on ABC 5 and cable channel EWTN. Close to a billion people will be reached via 500 television channels or reception points and can be accessed by Internet with streaming video.

The main venue of "FamilyFest," an ecumenical and inter-religious event held every five years and organized by the Focolare Movement, is in Rome, Italy.

In the past, the people of the world were linked together in sports (Olympics), by movies (Oscars) and by tragedy (9/11). This time, millions of families around the world will be linked together, interactively and in one simultaneous global event for and by families through "FamilyFest 2005."

While the global event unfolds in Rome, the Philippines' own "FamilyFest 2005" is set to take place at the Yñares Center in Antipolo.



POPE John Paul II addressed the first FamilyFest of the worldwide Focolare Movement that was held in Rome in 1981. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Excerpts from the program—which include a report on Philippine housing projects and a performance of Ballet Philippines —will be beamed to Rome and the rest of the world.

The housing project, "One Family, One Home" which has already started in Cebu, will also be launched.

Portions of the live "FamilyFest 2005" in Rome, likewise, will become part of the program at the Yñares Center. There will be taped addresses of the Holy Father and that of Chiara Lubich and messages from other international civil, political and religious leaders.

Previous messages

Pope John Paul II was originally scheduled to address millions of families via the worldwide "FamilyFest 2005" as he had done so since 1981. Instead, the worldwide Focolare Movement will replay the Holy Father's previous messages—a fitting tribute to the Pontiff who strongly advocated love and solidarity in the family.

"FamilyFest" is an event which highlights the love and unity in the family prepared by and addressed to families of every country, culture, race and religion. It is a celebration of family through songs, dances, mimes, folkloric presentations. It features advocacies, projects, dialogues and occasions for discussion. Above all, it presents testimonies of joys and sorrows, solidarity and communion that suggest ways to unify families and how they can contribute to world peace.

Representing Asia

This year, each of the 120 countries will celebrate its own "FamilyFest 2005" by paying homage to the late Pope John Paul II who is loved and respected by families of all faiths.

The Philippines, representing Asia, will enjoy the longest exposure among all the nations interlinked with the event such as Sao Paolo in Brazil, Brussels in Belgium, Toronto in Canada and Zagreb in Croatia.

Both religious and lay associations and movements of Catholic and Christian Churches, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and people of other faiths support and will participate in "FamilyFest 2005."

This global event proves that unifying humanity is not a utopian dream. It is already taking place.

No storms, but expect more rains, says Pagasa

By Blanche S. Rivera

EXPECT rains this weekend as another cold front brings cloudy skies over Luzon and the eastern parts of Visayas and Mindanao, the country's weather bureau said.

The tailend of a cold front from China is passing the country, but it is expected to be out in 24 to 48 hours, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz said the rain-producing cold front would not trigger thunderstorms but could bring in rainshowers.

Rains fell over Metro Manila yesterday in the middle of a hot summer.

"It does not signal an early rainy season. It's just a difference in the temperature," Cruz told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

Pagasa recorded the highest temperature yesterday at 32 degrees Celsius, slightly lower than the average 34 degrees Celsius since last month.

American citizenship fails to lure Fil-Ams to enlist in US military

LOS ANGELES—The number of non-Americans, including Filipinos, who are enlisting in the US military is dropping, even though service now provides a fast track to American citizenship, an Associated Press review of military data shows.

The decrease in non-citizen enlistees, who hail from countries such as the Philippines, Mexico, Nigeria and Germany, has hit all branches of the armed services, which already are struggling with recruitment as the US presence in Iraq enters year three.

The decline surprises immigration and military experts, who expected that green-card holders who might otherwise wait years to become Americans would jump at the citizenship offer President George W. Bush extended nearly three years ago.

Instead, the annual number of non-citizen enlistees has fallen nearly 20 percent from fiscal year 2001—the last full year before the changes—to fiscal year 2004, according to military data. Much of the decline, from 11,829 to 9,477 recruits, came last year alone.

America's roughly 30,000 foreign soldiers come from more than 100 countries, with the largest contingent living in California. More than a third are Hispanic.

Non-citizen soldiers are hardly a new phenomenon. Irish immigrants fought in the Civil War. During World War II, more than 100,000 non-citizens enlisted, most from Europe.

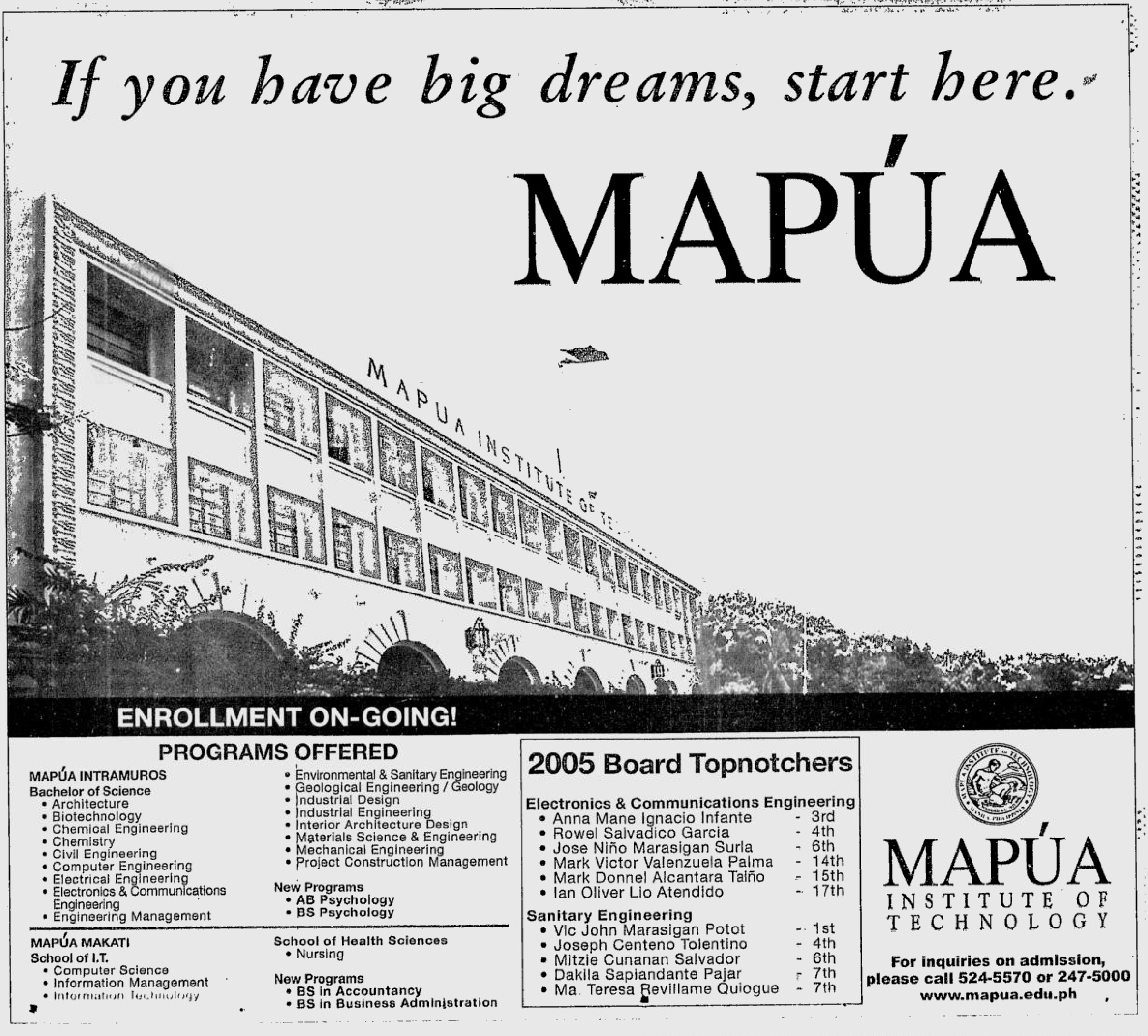
In July 2002, Bush ordered automatic citizenship eligibility for foreign nationals on active duty who joined on or after Sept. 11, 2001 (citizenship also was granted to those who died in war and their families). In November 2003, Bush signed legislation that let all non-citizens apply for citizenship after one year of service, rather than three.

Conservative groups first warned that expediting citizenship would make the military rely too heavily on foreigners.

That hasn't happened—the total number of non-citizen enlistees has fallen each of the past five fiscal years.

Charles Moskos, a military sociologist at Northwestern University, said he was surprised by the dip but still believes the military will be forced to turn toward non-citizens.

"We can't get enough middle-class kids to die for our country," he said. "This is the next step." *AP*



If you have big dreams, start here.

MAPÚA

ENROLLMENT ON-GOING!

PROGRAMS OFFERED

MAPÚA INTRAMUROS
Bachelor of Science
- Architecture
- Biotechnology
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Electronics & Communications Engineering
- Engineering Management
- Environmental & Sanitary Engineering
- Geological Engineering / Geology
- Industrial Design
- Industrial Engineering
- Interior Architecture Design
- Materials Science & Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Project Construction Management

New Programs
- AB Psychology
- BS Psychology

MAPÚA MAKATI
School of I.T.
- Computer Science
- Information Management
- Information Technology

School of Health Sciences
- Nursing

New Programs
- BS in Accountancy
- BS in Business Administration

2005 Board Topnotchers

Electronics & Communications Engineering	
Anna Mane Ignacio Infante	3rd
Rowel Salvadico Garcia	4th
Jose Niño Marasigan Surla	6th
Mark Victor Valenzuela Palma	14th
Mark Donnel Alcantara Taiño	15th
Ian Oliver Lio Atendido	17th
Sanitary Engineering	
Vic John Marasigan Potot	1st
Joseph Centeno Tolentino	4th
Mitzie Cunanan Salvador	6th
Dakila Sapiandante Pajar	7th
Ma. Teresa Revillame Quiogue	7th

MAPÚA
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

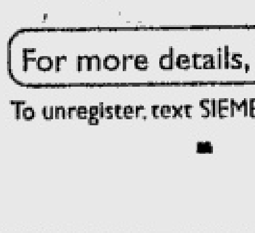
For inquiries on admission,
please call 524-5570 or 247-5000
www.mapua.edu.ph

Here's A Deal You Can't Get Anywhere Else!
SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid
SMART Buddy SIEMENS
BUY 1 TAKE 1
SIEMENS
SMART
M65
FREE
SIEMENS
SMART
Buy a
SMART Buddy Siemens M65
₱17,990
only
Water, Dust and Shock Resistant • Built-in Digital Camera • Video Recorder • Voice-dialing • 40 Polyphonic Tones
Handsfree Speaker
Get a FREE
SMART Buddy Siemens C62
Save ₱5,490
MMS, GPRS, WAP • Tri-band Stopwatch • Countdown Timer • OPTIONAL Attachable Quickpic Camera w/ Flash • Organizer • Calendar • Polyphonic Tones

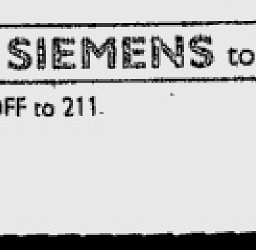
SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid
super sim 3
SMART Buddy Pre-paid
super sim 3
• 650 phone numbers or 105 text messages storage capacity
• Password Protection - phonebook & inbox
• Nationwidest coverage
• Free balance text inquiry
• Instant access to SMART services
• International Roaming - capable

Grab a **SMART Buddy SIEMENS M65** phonekit now for only **₱17,990** and get a **SIEMENS C62** absolutely **FREE!** No catch. No add-ons. No kidding! Available in **SMART Wireless Centers**!

Get both of them now and also get a chance to join the GRAB A SIEMENS FLY TO MADRID Promo! Win any of these prizes in the Weekly Draws!



27 Siemens CX65



180 Real Madrid Shirts

450 Real Madrid Phone Straps

To join, type <SIEMENS><phone model><name><address><age><serial no.> and send to 211.

I ♥ SMART *Simply Amazing!*

For more details, text **SIEMENS** to 211

To unregister, text SIEMENS OFF to 211.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0537, Series of 2005.

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, send a text message to 888 (₱1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), [illegible] the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Embattled Valbuena resigns as PCA chief

By TJ Burgonio, Christine Gaylican and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

APPARENTLY sensing her impending ouster, Philippine Coconut Authority administrator Evangeline Valbuena opted to resign irrevocably instead.

Valbuena, who blew the whistle over the controversial P8.4-billion hybrid coconut nursery in Agusan del Sur, filed her resignation on Thursday, hours after Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita confirmed to the press that Malacañang was searching for a new PCA administrator.

"The statement of no other than the President's alter ego about the committee's search to replace me already carries an official weight than just the floating rumors...," said Valbuena yesterday in an interview.

In her three-paragraph resignation letter, Valbuena said she was "resigning to give her Excellency [Ms. Arroyo] a freehand in choosing the proper person to lead the PCA."

'Irrevocable'

"It's irrevocable. I serve at the pleasure of the President," a calm Valbuena said in a forum at the Ambassador Hotel in Manila.

Valbuena, one of the President's close associates especially during her stint at the Department of Trade and Industry, headed the PCA for only four months.

Prior to her resignation, Valbuena had clashed with Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap over the Agusan project which the former had staunchly opposed because it entailed allotting coconut levy funds for a single project in a non-coconut producing province like Agusan del Sur.

"This is not a good project to begin with," she said, stressing that she would never be a party to talks that would dilute "the essence of fund stewardship."

She claimed that Yap pressured her to continue with the project, which she noted lacks transparency and was extravagant considering it will take only P500 million to jumpstart a province's coconut industry.

Vehement denial

But Yap has vehemently denied pushing for the Agusan project and putting pressure on Valbuena which he claimed was a "figment of her imagination."

He also clarified that there was no decision yet whether to pursue the Agusan project or not since the necessary evaluation has not been made.

Yap was also furious at Valbuena for making insinuations in media that her departure from PCA was linked to the Agusan project.

But Ermita confirmed that Yap was behind Valbuena's replacement as PCA head.

"Based on reports I got, there is an advice from the Department of Agriculture that it is planning to replace her (Valbuena). Secretary Yap plans to do this by talking to the board to elect Ms Valbuena's replacement," said Ermita in an interview with dzRH radio.

Search committee

Ermita said he had known of Valbuena's impending departure as early as last week from the search committee.

Ermita said he asked his assistants to find out why Yap wanted Valbuena out of PCA and they replied that it was "probably because of the use of the (coco levy) funds to put up coconut hybrid stations in Agusan."

"Of course, it is a matter of decision on why concentrate a huge amount in one place when it could be spread out all over the nation," said Ermita, who admitted that he has no other details to provide about the deal. "This is only speculation on the possible reason (for Valbuena's ouster)."

Policy differences

In a separate interview, Yap admitted that he recommended the change in the PCA leadership based on Valbuena's performance evaluation and on professional ethical considerations.

Yap said that Valbuena has misconstrued orders given by a superior.

"I made the recommendation (to Malacañang) that the leadership of PCA be reconsidered because I believe that there are policy differences between myself and an attached agency head," he said.

As DA Secretary, he said, he is trying to implement programs that are cleared by the President and if the attached agency head cannot execute these programs on the basis of her instructions "I have an obligation to make recommendations and ensure that her programs are effected."

Ally in Pimentel

The embattled Valbuena, however, found an ally in Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who praised her and filed a resolution asking the Senate committee on agriculture and food to open an inquiry into the coconut development project.

"The likes of Evangeline Valbuena belongs to an endangered species of whistle-blowers," Pimentel said in the same forum, describing her dismissal as unfortunate "because she is only trying to uphold public interest."

The senator said the inquiry would focus on the supposed anomalous allocation of coconut levy funds for a single project in a non-coconut producing province, as well as the viability and usefulness of the project, dubbed Agusan Reserve Area Development Project.

CAPALLA

CBCP voices concern for poor coco farmers

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday voiced alarm over the failure of the country's 20 million coconut farmers to get their share of the long-disputed coco levy.

"We view with alarm the grim condition of the small coconut farmers," the bishops said in a pastoral statement. "Most of them live in misery and abject poverty."

Speaking for his fellow bishops, CBCP president Archbishop Fernando Capalla of Davao said it was high time the coco levy fund—estimated to be in billions—be used for the benefit of the farmers and the coconut industry.

"Theirs has been certainly a difficult and painful struggle," he wrote in the statement.

The bishops were banking on the previous Supreme Court decision declaring the fund public in character and as such, should logically benefit coconut farmers.

They also cited Sandiganbayan decisions confirming that investments made by the United Coconut Planters Bank in the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) oil mills, and the CIIF's 27-percent share in San Miguel Corp. had been bought with coco levy funds.

"In other words, these assets amounting to billions of pesos were ordered reconveyed to government as holder in trust for the coconut farmers," they said.

Automatic CENTRE
SOGO Home & Office Center
Cool Summer FANfare

Camel Industrial Fan 18" SIF-18 P1,098
Asahi Stand Fan 16" IO-6067 w/ ionizer & remote P1,998
Dowell Industrial Fan 18" IF-E0018S P2,248
Standard Stand Fan 16" SNG-18 P988
Nikon Stand Fan 16" NFS16-6 w/ timer P778
Standard Industrial Fan 24" SHF-24 P5,078
Hanabishi Stand Fan 16" Sweet Wind-16 P798
Asahi Desk Fan 16" SS-6004 P668
Camel Desk Fan 16" CDF-616C P588
Dowell Desk Fan 16" TF-116 P598
Nikon Wall Fan 16" NWF16-2R w/ remote P998
Hanabishi Industrial Wall Fan 18" HIWF-180W P1,258
A-Plus Industrial Fan 18" AP-18 P938
Kyowa Box Fan 12" KW-6900 P528
Moulinex Juice Extractor BKA1 P3,138
Ambianti Blender BL-757 P798
Moulinex Blender DAA7 P2,788
Dowell Blender BL-55 P898
Kyowa Blender KW-4701 w/ Mill Attachment P818
Imarflex Blender IM-3250G P1,198

Get this 7" deskfan for only P99
With P1500 minimum purchase in a single receipt of electric fans/blenders.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2029, Series of 2005

PLUS! FREE GIFT WITH P1,500 MINIMUM BUYS OF SMALL APPLIANCES WITH YOUR BANKARD CREDIT CARD
BANKARD PEP INSTALLMENT
Promo period from April 15 to May 31, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2027, Series of 2005

Automatic CENTRE
Greenbelt1 Tel# 7503316-18 • Ayala Ave., Makati Tel# 893-654 Araneta Center Tel# 421-6319• North EDSA, Quezon City Tel# 927-6747 • Tutuban Center Mall1 Tel# 253-2029 • Glorietta 4, AyalaCenter Tel# 729-6450 • Southmall Tel# 800-4529 • Alabang Town Center Tel# 809-5981 • Greenhills Tel# 705-1379 • EDSA Central Mandaluyong Tel# 683-0891 • Market Market! 7582552 53 • Ortigas Home Depot Tel# 635-9026 • Level 3, Robinsons Galleria Tel# 632-0673 • Robinsons Pioneer Tel# 687-1088

SOGO
Level 2, Glorietta 1, Ayala Center, Makati Tel# 867-2352-53 • Level 4, Robinsons Place Metro East, Pasig City Tel# 647-8806 • Level 2, Festival Supermall, Alabang Tel# 850-3535 • Alimall, Cubao Tel# 912-6601 • 2nd Flr. Zabarte Town Center, Caloocan City Tel# 962-4185-86 • 2nd Flr. Tutuban Center Mall1 Tel# 252-8165

FAMILYFEST 2005
A global event linking 193 cities worldwide simulcast via 38 satellites and internet transmission from Rome.
The International Familyfest 2005
TO THE POPE OF THE FAMILIES
A Tribute to Pope John Paul II
Showcasing the vitality of the family through music and dance - testimonies - dialogue.
Launching of the project
ONE FAMILY, ONE HOME
live from Manila.
April 16, 2005
Saturday, 8:00 - 10:30 pm
Ynares Center
Circumferential Road,
Barangay San Roque, Antipolo City
The Rome Program will be aired via satellite on April 16, 2005 at 9:30 pm
ABC
The Familyfest is promoted by the New Families of the Focolare Movement together with other Christian, Buddhist, Muslim and lay associations to improve family life.
Brought to you by
Bay Fresh
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
greenwich
I ♥ SMART Simply Amazing!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

P3-B EXPANSION PLAN

Executives of SPI Tecnologies Inc., one of the world's biggest business process outsourcing services providers, announce a P3-billion expansion plan in the country during a press briefing at their headquarters in Parañaque City Friday. Answering questions from the media are, from left, Ernest Cu, SPI president and CEO, Ramanan Raghavendran, SPI Technologies chair, and Derk Haank, CEO of Springer Science + Business Media, a major SPI client. Founded in the Philippines in 1980, SPI celebrates today its 25th anniversary at the PNB grounds on Roxas Boulevard. ROGER MARGALLO

Japan agency cuts RP rating

By Doris C. Dumlao

JAPAN Credit Rating Agency yesterday downgraded the Philippines' sovereign credit rating by one notch due to the slow pace of fiscal reforms as well as the deterioration in tax revenues partly because of "structural corruption."

It was the third international credit rating agency to downgrade the country's debt rating so far this year. Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Service earlier cut the Philippine rating.

In a report by chief analyst Kazuo Imai and Yoshihiko Tamura, JCR lowered the country's long-term sovereign rating from BBB to BBB- with a stable outlook, which means that no further downgrade is likely in the near term.

JCR caters to clients from Japan, one of the Philippines' top bilateral creditors, trading partners and sources of foreign investments.

"While JCR does not think that the country has fallen into a fiscal crisis, it understands that the country faces an urgent necessity to push the fiscal reform, given its worsening fiscal position as shown by the decreasing tax revenue to GDP (gross domestic product) ratio," the JCR report said.

It noted that tax revenues as a percentage of GDP were deteriorating after peaking at 17 percent in 1997. As of 2003, the ratio has fallen to 12.5 percent.

"The tax revenue basis has continued weakening due to a number of difficult problems including structural corruption," the report said.

JCR also said the consolidated public sector fiscal deficit was barely improving as a result of the chronic loss incurred by the National Power Corp.

JCR stressed that additional tax revenues were needed to absorb the debt burdens and to achieve a balanced budget in the medium to long term. But it also noted that the government had run into difficulties passing new tax measures, particularly the value added tax.

JCR said the revision of the outlook from negative to stable reflected the view that the fiscal reform policy would be maintained despite concerns over the process of implementation so far.

Earlier, another Japanese rating agency, Rating and Investment Information (R&I) reaffirmed its investment grade rating on the Philippines' foreign currency long-term and short-term credit rating.

SIGE NA NGA,
BIBILI NA TAYO NG VAN!
NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO TAKE OUT A PERSONAL LOAN FROM HSBC. BIG SAVINGS! KAYA ANG PAG-UPGRADE NG KOTSE NIYO AY SIGURADONG MATUTULOY!

Personal Loans at our lowest rate. For a limited time only.

Call 840-0990

- Loan amounts from Php30,000 to Php500,000
- Fast approval
- Waived processing fees

ACT NOW AND SAVE!

Pay only Php2,041.26 a month, and save Php2,927.45 on total loan payments for a Php50,000 personal loan.*

* For a 36-month tenor loan. Offer until 30 June 2005 only. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1495. Series of 2005.

HSBC
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

mercury drug
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO

DISCOUNTS FOR SUKI CARD HOLDERS!

SUKI SABADO SPECIAL

APRIL 16 to 22, 2005

ASCOF SYR 300MG/5ML 60ML
REG. PRICE: P 90.75
PAY ONLY 86.00

ASCOF SYR 300MG/5ML 120ML
REG. PRICE: P 118.25
PAY ONLY 112.25

ASCOF TAB 300MG
REG. PRICE: P 2.50
PAY ONLY 2.35

ASCOF FTE TAB 600MG 20
REG. PRICE: P 76.75
PAY ONLY 70.00

ASCOF FTE TAB 600MG
REG. PRICE: P 3.70
PAY ONLY 3.50

MENTOPAS MEDIC PLSTR 10
REG. PRICE: P 30.00
PAY ONLY 27.00

GLUCOLYTE SOL 250ML
REG. PRICE: P 61.00
PAY ONLY 57.75
REG OR APPLE

GLUCOLYTE PDR MIXTURE
REG. PRICE: P 14.25
PAY ONLY 13.50

CARNATION NFAT PDR MLK 200G
REG. PRICE: P 81.25
PAY ONLY 78.75

CARNATION NFAT PDR MILK 800G
REG. PRICE: P 278.50
PAY ONLY 270.00

CARNATION NFAT PDR MILK 450G
REG. PRICE: P 172.25
PAY ONLY 167.00

Suki Card Program Guidelines

1. The Suki Card Program is available to all customers over 18 years old.
2. To receive a Suki Card, customer must present receipt(s) of single or cumulative purchases worth P1,000.00 made from any Mercury Drug Store
3. Suki Card Members are entitled to discounts from participating products.
4. All purchases made through the Suki Card will earn points. Every purchase of P200.00 is equivalent to 1 point.
5. Mercury Drug Suki Points are redeemable in multiples of 10 points. Every Suki Point is equivalent to P1.00.
6. Always present your Suki Card before making any purchases.
7. Mercury Drug reserves the right to modify or restrict the usage of the card without prior notice.

[illegible]

The Suki Card program is available in all Metro Manila branches including Bulacan (except Baliuag), Cavite, Laguna (except San Pablo), Rizal, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Baguio, La Trinidad, La Union and Bicol (except Legaspi and Abella) branches.
Right reserved to limit quantities on all items. These promo discounts shall not be used together with any other discount privilege. For other promos, please visit our website at www.mercurydrug.com.

Nene on JPE move to bolt minority: It's a geriatric outburst

By TJ Burgonio and Michael Lim Ubac

"IT'S A geriatric outburst."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. yesterday said making light of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's decision to bolt the opposition bloc in the Senate.

"It's a geriatric outburst typical of senior citizens like us," Pimentel said when asked at a press forum about Enrile's surprising announcement Thursday to become an independent senator.

Pimentel, however, admitted that Enrile was a loss to the minority bloc, which itself is still burdened by a rift between Senators Edgardo Angara and Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

"He will be a loss because we're talking of numbers here. It will definitely reduce our clout in the Senate," he said in a forum at the Ambassador Hotel in Manila. "We don't want to lose anyone because as it is, Ed Angara and Ping Lacson don't see eye to eye."

Angara, leader of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, had a falling out with Lacson after Angara junked Lacson's presidential bid in last year's national elections in favor of actor Fernando Poe Jr.'s.

Pimentel said he was "hoping against hope" that Enrile would reconsider his decision.

But Enrile did not budge. "I will not reconsider my position. I'd like to re-assert full and absolute independence in the Senate," he told reporters at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel in Pasay City.

Seizing the moment, allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Congress yesterday threw the door wide open for Enrile. A day after he bolted the minority in the Senate over disagreements on the passage of the value-added tax bill, two members of the ruling party Lakas-CMD said the senator should consider joining the administration where he would be "warmly welcomed."

"His expertise on economic, legal, and socio-political matters will be of greater use to the country if he is with the administration camp," said Nueva Ecija Rep. Aurelio Umali.

To convince the senator to join the administration fold, Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella heaped praises on Enrile, starting with his decision to change his vote from "no" to "yes" on VAT.

He described the senator's move as a "matter of high principle" and a "show of real courage and statesmanship which is rare in politics."

Puentevella said Enrile made good on his pledge to embark on critical cooperation with the Arroyo administration, "which he delivered at the best time when the government needs support for its vital tax reform measures."

Umali, member of the Commission on Appointments, said the President's offer for unity and national reconciliation with all members of the opposition still remained.

Enrile, however, said he would not accept offers to join the administration bloc.

Pimentel, who had apologized to Enrile in a text message, said he had not talked to the senator or called a meeting among the other members of the opposition since Enrile announced his decision Wednesday.

Apart from Pimentel, Angara and Lacson, the other members of the opposition were Senators Alfredo Lim, Sergio Osmeña III, Jamby Madrigal, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, and Jinggoy Estrada.

Garcia family still in country, says immigration exec

MEMBERS of the family of retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia are still in the country, the top immigration official at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) said yesterday.

Citing immigration records, Ferdinand Sampol, head of supervisors of the Naia Bureau of Immigration, said the last trip that Garcia's wife, Clarita, and their sons Juan Paulo, Timothy Mark, and Ian Carl made in and out of the country was in 2004.

Sampol said the Garcia family had been placed on the immigration watch list since Oct. 6 last year after the Office of the Ombudsman started investigating the general and his family for unexplained wealth and alleged corruption.

"They would have been intercepted at any international airport in the country had they attempted to leave because they were already on the watch list even before the hold departure order was issued against them last April 11," Sampol told reporters.

Sampol added that anyone on the bureau's watch list should first secure clearance from Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. before being allowed to leave the country.

The Office of the Ombudsman admitted earlier this week that it could not locate Clarita, despite having received information that she recently visited her husband at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, where he is currently detained.

The Office of the Ombudsman filed plunder charges against all members of the Garcia family last week.

Garcia, former comptroller of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, was accused of unlawfully acquiring a total of P303.2 million, according to authorities. *Nikko Dizon*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, April 16, 2005
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading:	Acts 9:31-42
Gospel:	John 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' followers said, "This language is very hard! Who can accept it?"

Jesus was aware that his disciples were murmuring about this and so he said to them, "Does this offend you? Then how will you react when you see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh cannot help. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But among you there are some who do not believe."

From the beginning, Jesus knew who would betray him. So he added, "As I have told you, no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

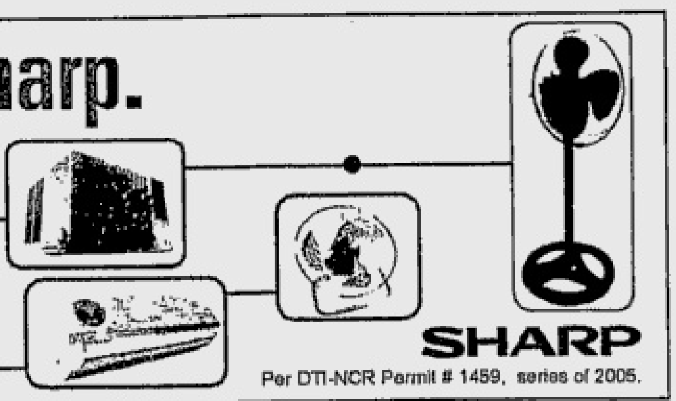
After this many disciples withdrew and no longer followed him. Jesus asked the Twelve, "Will you also go away?" Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We now believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Commentary

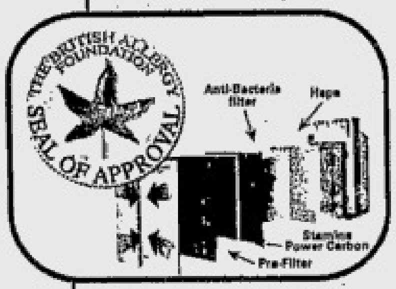
Jesus tells us that his words bring spirit and life, yet his words offend many. He asks them if they will be offended when the Son of Man ascends, on the cross and into heaven at the right hand of God as judge of the world? Jesus even loses many of his own disciples. He asked the Twelve if they will leave as well and Peter's answer is meant to be our own: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We now believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." But Peter doesn't know what he's saying—do we ever really know the words of our belief? Jesus tells them, reminds them that it is He who has chosen us and that one would betray him. Lord, if we are quick to say that we believe, help us to remain faithful and not to betray you before others.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Summer's Twice as Cool with Sharp.
Get a FREE STAND FAN with every purchase of a window type aircon,
or a FREE INDUSTRIAL FAN with every purchase of a split-type aircon from Sharp.*
Promo runs until May 31, 2005.
*approved by DTI-NCR
SHARP
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1459, series of 2005.

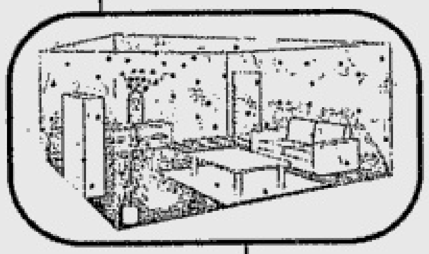


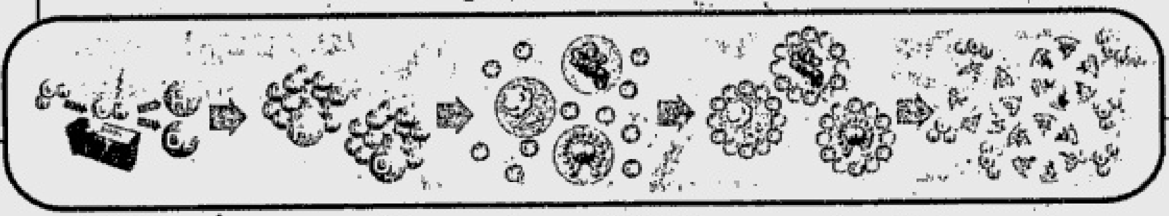
Cleaner air is possible, thanks to Sharp's exclusive Plasmacluster™ Ion technology.
Scientifically recognized worldwide for its effectiveness, Plasmacluster Ion technology targets and eliminates airborne impurities such as mold, bacteria, cigarette smoke, pet odors (aldehyde), and toilet odors. It is also effective against various asthma and other illness-causing allergens, as well as certain airborne viruses. A major car manufacturer, dialysis center, sanitary services corporation, food manufacturer, nursing home, air conditioning corporation and pharmaceutical company are among the international organizations that testify to the effectiveness of Plasmacluster Ion technology.



Not just clean, but fresh!
Positive and negative ions don't just clean the air, but freshen it as well. Negative ions in particular abound in areas with fresh air like waterfalls and fountains. Places like congested urban areas, polluted rivers, and rooms with PCs or cigarette smoke, lack negative ions, leading to deteriorating air quality. Sharp's Plasmacluster Ion technology is able to increase negative ion flow in an area to freshen the air.

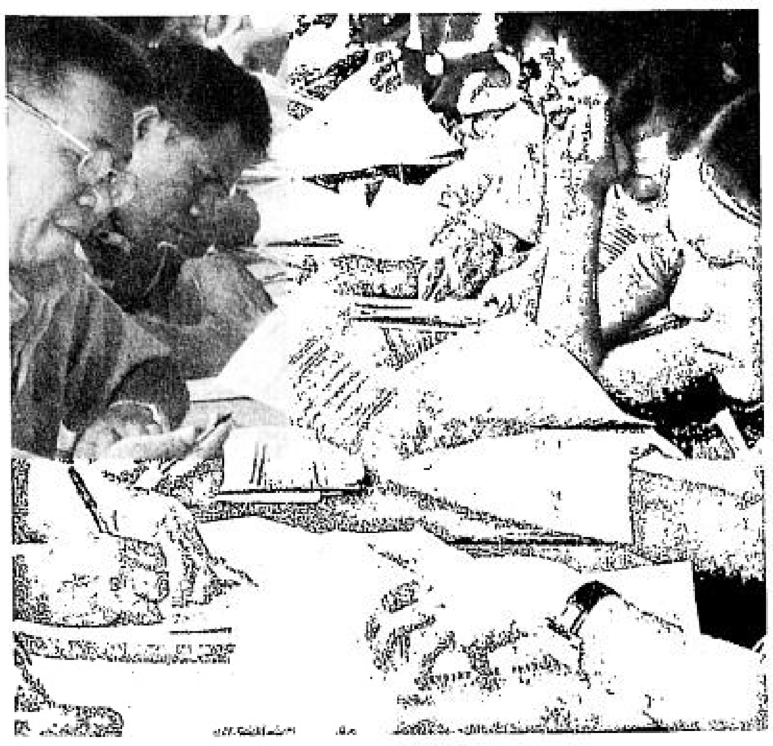
How Plasmacluster Ion technology works.
First, the Plasmacluster Ion generator breaks down water molecules into positive and negative ions, which are then released into the air.
The released positive and negative ions are immediately surrounded by water molecules, to form Plasmacluster Ions.
The Plasmacluster Ions diffuse throughout the entire room or enclosed area where mold spores and odor-causing molecules are floating.
These Plasmacluster Ions collide with the mold spores and odor-causing molecules, and are transformed into hydroxyl (OH) groups.
By transforming into OH groups, Plasmacluster Ions break the cell walls of harmful mold spores, and reduce odor-causing molecules to harmless substances. Plasmacluster Ions also break down cigarette smoke, garbage and toilet odors in the same way.





Positive (H) and negative (O2) ions are effective against mold spores, cigarette smoke, odors, allergens and certain viruses.
If you buy clean water, why not clean air?

SHARP
be sharp
Plasmacluster Ion technology at work for you. As the pioneer in Plasmacluster Ion technology, Sharp has put Plasmacluster Ion generators to work in an expanding line-up of products. In addition to air conditioners and air purifiers, Plasmacluster Ion technology has now been included in humidifiers, dehumidifiers, vacuum cleaners and refrigerators. It is being used in cars, bathrooms, elevators, hospitals-- and anywhere clean air is a priority.
Everything's better if it's Sharp.
www.sharp.ph



BEATING THE DEADLINE

Taxpayers try to beat the April 15 deadline in filing their income tax returns the BIR building in Manila. ERIK ARAZAS

Farmers poorer despite land reform

INCOMES of Filipino farmers' incomes have been falling as the country winds up a centerpiece land reform program for the rural poor, officials statistics showed.

Data from the Department of Land Reform showed that poverty incidence in areas covered by land reform dropped by 2.4 percentage points to 45.2 percent over the 10 years to 2000, while the proportion of the poor to the total population rose by 1.3 points to 56.4 percent where no land redistribution took place.

In the same period, real annual incomes among beneficiaries of agrarian reform fell 8.9 percent to P65,730 while dropping 11.6 percent to P51,360 in areas without land reform.

"We cannot attribute productivity changes specifically to CARP (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program)," said the DLR's policy and research director Martha Salcedo, citing an in-house study.

She told a public forum that the data conformed with the long-run decline of agricultural production in the Philippines, where yields for major crops have been "lackluster" compared to those of other Asian countries.

The farm sector now accounts for just under 20 percent of the country's gross domestic product, but employs 12.8 million people or nearly 36 percent of the country's labor force, official data show. Seventy percent of the poor live in rural areas.

Agrarian reform assistant undersecretary Renato Herrera told the forum that since the land reform law took effect in 1988, the government has distributed 3.509 million hectares of farm land, or 82 percent of the target of 4.29 million hectares.

"We believe we can substantially finish land distribution by 2008 provided we are given enough budget," Herrera said.

The program covers all agricultural lands regardless of crop or tenurial status of the tillers.

The balance of farms still to be distributed "are the more contentious ones whose landowners are actively resisting the program and will not hesitate to use remedies, legal or otherwise, to prevent or at least delay agrarian reform coverage," Herrera said.

Herrera said that lands with pending court cases are not likely to be distributed to farmers by the time the CARP expires in 2008.

With 770,000 hectares of land left under CARP, the DLR is not likely to finish land acquisition and distribution three years from now, he said.

"We can't do it by 2008," Herrera said in an interview during the forum yesterday.

"Definitely, there will be lands left, particularly the highly problematic landholdings with pending court cases," he said.

Herrera said a large portion of the remaining CARP land were in Negros Oriental and Occidental, Camarines Sur, and Bukidnon.

He said the DLR is likely to seek an extension of the CARP and find funding sources for the program when the deadline expires in 2008.

He admitted that the DLR does not have the funds for land acquisition and distribution from 2006 to 2008. With a P17-billion budget for the CARP this year, the DLR eyes to give out 130,000 hectares by yearend and 220,000 hectares. ***AFP with a report from Blanche S. Rivera***

After censure, US envoy sings different tune

By Volt Contreras

AFTER whipping a diplomatic storm for his snide remarks about the situation in Mindanao, US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli is now singing a different tune and is now talking about the "good things" happening in the South.

Mussomeli, who was censured by the government for describing Mindanao's hot spots as a potential "Afghanistan situation" and a possible new "Mecca for terrorism" yesterday sang praises to Muslim efforts to win peace in the region.

Mussomeli was one of the guest speakers at a program to mark the silver anniversary of the founding of Marawi City. He flew there from Manila along with Marikina City Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando.

"When I talk to people about the good things in Mindanao, I think of the progress that Marawi is making. This is a center of Philippine Muslim culture and this is a city and a community that is now moving in the right direction," he said.

"I often think that it is communities like this that will win the war on poverty, the war on terrorism, the war against injustice. You will win this war by winning the peace. Winning the peace through hard work and improved economic opportunities. And winning the peace through better education for your children," the US diplomat added.

The US Embassy in Manila released copies of his speech later yesterday, delivered three days after he was summoned by the Department of Foreign Affairs for making the "Afghanistan" comparison in an interview on Australian TV last April 5.

But Mussomeli has refused to apologize, claiming that his remarks were taken out of the context by the press. He later said the controversy he generated was "worth it" as it drew renewed attention to Mindanao's widespread poverty and unemployment.

Japanese wanted for prostitution arrested in Rizal

A JAPANESE man wanted by Tokyo authorities for allegedly forcing a 14-year-old girl into prostitution was arrested in San Mateo, Rizal, and was due to be deported home to face charges, immigration officials said yesterday.

Masakazu Kawano, 25, is affiliated with Japan's largest crime syndicate, the Yamaguchi-gumi, and is wanted by police in Saga state for forcing an underage girl to twice have sex with a Japanese man inside a hotel in Saga-shi last year, the Bureau of Immigration said in a statement.

Immigration official Teodoro Delarmente said the Japanese Embassy and Interpol sought Kawano's arrest. He was scheduled to be escorted on a flight to Tokyo on Tuesday by a team of Japanese police.

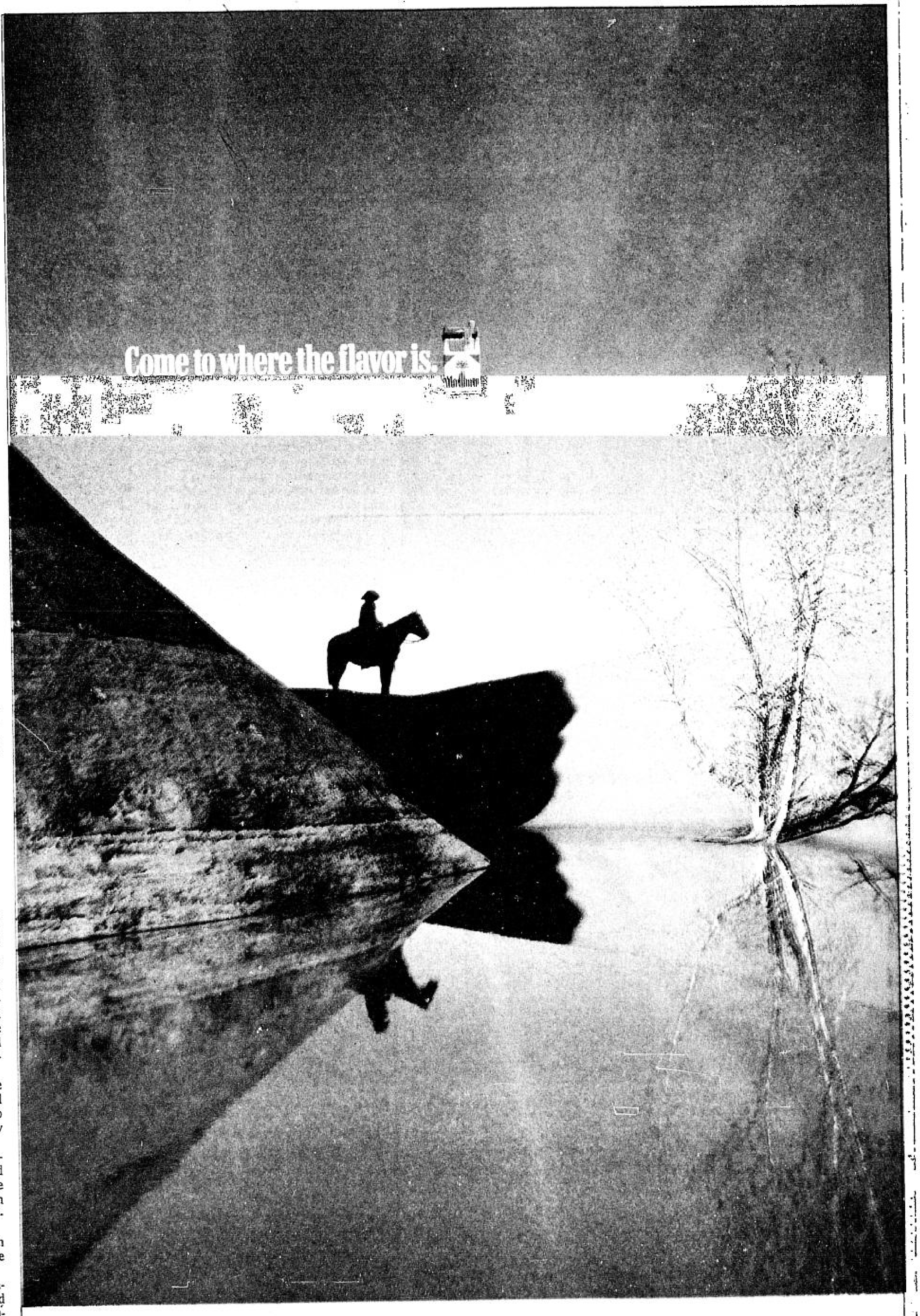
Kawano has been identified as a fifth generation member of the Yamaguchi-Gumi, said to be the biggest clan of the Yakuza syndicate which is allegedly involved in prostitution and illegal gambling, according to BI Associate Commissioner Teodoro Delarmente.

He said that the suspect has also been tagged as a second generation member of the Yakuza's Sakai-Gumi clan in Asakwa-Ikka.

Delarmente said both the Japanese Embassy in Manila and the Interpol in Tokyo had sought Kawano's arrest from Philippine authorities. His men arrested the Japanese fugitive on Wednesday at his residence in Barangay Guinayang, San Mateo.

Kawano has been wanted by the Japanese police for allegedly conspiring with a second suspect, identified as Sachiko Koyanagi, to force a 14-year-old girl to have sex with a customer inside a hotel in Saga-Ishi, Japan on two separate incidents in October last year.

The girl was allegedly introduced to the customer through an on-line dating website. The suspects were reportedly paid 40,000 yen for the two encounters. *Reports by Leila B. Salaverria and AP*



Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

OIL-FOR-FOOD SWINDLE

US indicts 3 for scheming to pay kickbacks to Saddam

NEW YORK—US prosecutors Thursday charged three people, including a Texas businessman, with scheming to pay millions of dollars in kickbacks to Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime out of UN oil-for-food program funds.

Texan David Chalmers and Bulgarian national Ludmil Dionissiev were arrested Thursday morning in Texas, US Attorney David Kelley said. Extradition of the third defendant, British oil trader John Irving, was sought from England.

According to the indictment, Chalmers and his two associates played a "pivotal role" in fixing the price of oil that was traded under the program and facilitated payment of illegal surcharges on the oil to the former Saddam regime.

"These secret payments were illegal kickbacks... to front companies and bank accounts designated and controlled by the Iraqi regime," Kelley said.

"The defendants were essentially diverting funds that otherwise would have been deposited in the oil-for-food escrow account, from which humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people was to be paid," he added.

If convicted, the three men could each face a maximum term of 62 years in prison.

"These disturbing indictments illustrate a continuing pattern of corruption that we have found in numerous instances involving the United Nations.

"We will continue our investigation and follow it wherever it may lead," said Representative Henry Hyde, chair of the House International Relations Committee, which has held hearings on the scandal.

A separate complaint charged a South Korean national, Park Tongsun, with conspiring to act in the United States as an unregistered Iraqi government agent in order to assist in the creation of the oil-for-food program.

Park, who is believed to be in South Korea, was charged with having received two million dollars from the Iraqi government, on the understanding that a portion of the money would be used to "take care" of an unidentified, high-ranking UN official.

Oil-for-food was the largest aid program in UN history, overseeing $64 billion in deals beginning in 1996 as the United Nations supervised Iraqi oil sales and the purchase of humanitarian supplies with the revenues.

Under the program, the Iraqi government had the power to select the companies and individuals who received the rights to purchase Iraqi oil.

Those selected were able to reap large profits by selling their allocations of Iraqi oil to brokers or companies capable of transporting the oil to a refinery.

Allocation of the purchase rights was conditional, according to Thursday's indictment, on payment of a secret surcharge to be paid into bank accounts under the control of the Iraqi government.

Chalmers and his associates engaged in the surcharge scheme through two companies—Bay Oil Inc. and Bay Oil Supply and Trading—in which Chalmers was the sole shareholder.

In order to hide the rise in price for Iraqi oil occasioned by the illicit surcharges, the defendants allegedly conspired with Iraqi officials to deflate the official selling price of Iraqi oil.

"Each played a major role in fine-tuning the oil-for-food program as a cash cow masquerading as a humanitarian venture," said John Klochan, assistant director of the FBI's New York office.

The system set the price for Iraqi oil so low, Klochan said, that Bay Oil was getting a great business deal, even taking into account the kickback they were required to pay.

Oil-for-food is the subject of a separate, independent inquiry by a committee headed by former US Federal reserve chairman Paul Volcker.

The committee has so far issued two interim reports which charged the program's director Benon Sevan with unethical behavior, and raised serious questions over the dealings of UN chief Kofi Annan's son, Kojo. *AFP*

IRAQI children cry following a roadside bomb attack near their home in Baghdad April 15. A large explosion ripped through the upscale Mansour district as a US military convoy was driving past, killing one person and injuring at least five, witnesses said. REUTERS

Suicide bomb attack, prison riot hit Iraq

BAGHDAD—Detainees rioted at Camp Bucca, the largest US-run prison in Iraq, for the second time in less than two weeks as insurgents escalated their attacks Friday in Baghdad, killing one and wounding eight.

And UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said the United States and Britain may have turned a blind eye to improper dealings in the controversial oil-for-food program under the embargo imposed on Saddam Hussein's ousted regime.

A suicide bomber struck on the capital's westside as a US military convoy drove through a busy commercial road in the Mansur neighborhood killing himself and wounding five civilians, said police and hospital sources.

The US military said one of its soldiers was wounded in the attack.

Body parts, a burnt engine and the remains of a white Opel littered the scene and a fire engulfed a nearby building about 250 meters from the Russian Embassy. The windshield was lightly damaged.

Police Captain Mohammed Firas, investigating the blast, said: "It was a suicide car bomb... The only person killed was the bomber."

Almost 10 minutes after the Mansur attack, a roadside bomb went off on al-Kanat street in eastern Baghdad, targeting an Iraqi army convoy, killing one civilian and wounding three, an interior ministry source said.

The attacks came one day after twin suicide car bombs hit a highway police convoy in Baghdad, killing 11 people and wounding dozens. Another suicide bomber killed four Iraqi policemen south of the capital in Mahawil.

The group of al-Qaida's Iraq frontman Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said it carried out Thursday's Baghdad attack which was the deadliest in the capital since the Jan. 30 elections.

And in southern Iraq, a prisoner at the US-run Camp Bucca detention facility was murdered, triggering a fight between inmates that left 12 wounded on Thursday night, said the US military.

"The fight was confined between the detainees in one compound and was not directed at US forces," it said in a statement.

"The guards regained control of the compound and immediately began rendering medical treatment to 12 other detainees who were injured during the fight."

It said that the remains of the murdered prisoner would be handed over to the Iraqi government and then returned to the family after the completion of an autopsy. *AFP*

KONZERT

Special Introductory Price
P 9,990

Konzert Home Theater System
KZ-HT1
- DVD player
- A/V amplifier-receiver
- 5-speaker system

Get the Hollywood feel in your Home.
Pack all the excitement and enjoy all your favorite movies with the new Konzert Home Theater System.

Konzert hotline: 852-0031
e-mail us at mgme@compass.com.ph
KonZert® AUDIO VIDEO TECHNOLOGY

AVAILABLE AT SELECTED BRANCHES OF: Abenson Appliance, Ansons Emporium, Automatic Center, CSI Appliance Store, Magic Appliance, Saver's Mart, SM Appliance Center and Western Marketing Corp.

9th MCLE SEMINARS FOR LAWYERS
APRIL 30, 2005 & MAY 7, 14, & 21, 2005
Venue: *Philippine Columbian Clubhouse, Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila*
Providers: *PLM LAW CENTER with PALP and BRAP*
For Compliance with **Second Cycle** (2004, 2005 & 2006)

Date/Time	Lecturer	Subject
April 30, 2005 8:00-10:00	Prof. Mario E. Valderrama Commercial Arbitrator	Arbitration Law in the Philippines and Mediation (Alternative Dispute Resolution ADR) 2 units
April 30, 2005 10:00-12:00	Justice Ruben T. Reyes Chairman, 5th Division Court of Appeals	Significant New Provisions and Amendments in Procedural Rules (Substantive and Procedural Law) 2 units
April 30, 2005 1:00-3:00	Justice Hector L. Hofileña Associate Justice, Court of Appeals	Rules on Notarial Practice and Updates in Legal Ethics (Legal Ethics) 2 units
April 30, 2005 3:00-6:00	Prof. Salvador A. Poquiz Bar Reviewer	An Over View of Labor Relation's Law (Substantive and Procedural [Labor] Laws) 3 units
May 7, 2005 8:00-10:00	Justice Rodolfo G. Palattao (ret.) Sandiganbayan	Review of Anti-Corruption Laws and Updates in Jurisprudence (Substantive and Procedural [Criminal] Law) 2 units
May 7, 2005 10:00-12:00	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin Associate Justice, Court of Appeals	Pre-Trial Skills: Civil and Criminal Cases (Pre-Trial and Trial Skills) 2 units
May 7, 2005 1:00-3:00	Justice Ruben T. Reyes Chairman 5th Division, Court of Appeals	Emerging Ethical Issues in the Practice of Law (Legal Ethics) 2 units
May 7, 2005 3:00-5:00	USEC. Ernesto L. Pineda Department of Justice Bar Reviewer	Anti-Violence Against Women and Children (R.A. 9262) Law Reforms in Specific Areas of Law 2 Units
May 7, 2005 5:00-7:00	Justice Regalado E. Maambong Associate Justice, Court of Appeals; B.S. Criminology	Essentials of Forensic Ballistics, Questioned Documents and Fingerprinting (Technology and the Law) 2 units
May 14, 2005 8:00-10:00	USEC. Ernesto L. Pineda Department of Justice; Bar Reviewer	Pitfalls in Practice: Suspension and Disbarment (Legal Ethics) 2 units
May 14, 2005 10:00-12:00	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta Senior Member, 1st Division Sandiganbayan	Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Law (R.A. 9165), The New Laws on Anti-Rape, Anti-Sexual Harassment, Illegal Possession of Firearms, Hazing, Child Abuse and other Special Penal Laws (Law Reforms in Specific Areas of Law) 2 units
May 14, 2005 1:00-4:00	Dean Custodio O. Parlade Former Dean, San Sebastian College of Law; International Arbitrator	International and Domestic Commercial Arbitration: (Filing of Claims, Preparation for Arbitration, Arbitral Awards and their Enforcement) (Alternative Dispute Resolution [ADR] 3 units
May 14, 2005 4:00-6:00	Justice Magdangal M. de Leon Associate Justice, Court of Appeals	Oral Advocacy (Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy) 2 units
May 21, 2005 8:00-10:00	USEC. Ernesto L. Pineda Department of Justice; Bar Reviewer	Hearsay Evidence: Effects and Consequences (Substantive and Procedural [Civil and Criminal] Law) 2 units
May 21, 2005 10:00-12:00	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin Associate Justice, Court of Appeals	Trial Skills: Civil and Criminal Cases (Pre-Trial and Trial Skills) 2 units
May 21, 2005 1:00-3:00	Atty. Ronaldo P. Ledesma Head, Board of Special Inquiry, BI	International Law and the Admission of Aliens (International Law and International Conventions) 2 units
May 21, 2005 3:00-5:00	Justice Ruben T. Reyes Chairman 5th Division, Court of Appeals	Legal Writing and Appellate Briefs (Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy) 2 units

Contact No. 5278229; 5278045; 5284578 Contact Person: Grace M. Ricafort and Julius Caesar Ileto
Fee: P8,000 for the entire seminars (inclusive of lunch, morning and afternoon snacks and seminar kit)

Brand New. Good Location. Good View
BAGUIO
VACATION APTS

P2,500/day 2BR 5 Beds
P3,500/day 3BR 10 Beds

Annual rates available

Extra Beds/ cooking Allowed Spacious Garden for Jogging/Biking. Foggy . Beautiful Sunset View. Clubhouse w meeting rooms & Fireplace

Pines Garden Villas Subd.
Asin Road, Baguio Circumferential Road
09189395629. 09189403711.0744455546. 8522466

COPIERS Sales/Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available : LIQUID COPIERS
P15,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 15 CPM
BRAND NEW! RICOH FT 3813 BEST FOR BUSINESS
P49,900. ONLY
BRAND NEW CANON FC 290 FOR PERSONAL USE
P15,000. ONLY
RECON FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER
P15,000. ONLY
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS!
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg 550 MF Jhocson St Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ.)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph
RINGBINDERS / LAMINATORS
CUTTERS/BLUEPRINT/RISO
FAX MACHINES, ETC.
ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS FOR SHORT EVENTS
BUY/TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

Summer Sale!
· ON FACTORY SECONDS ·
Up to 60% OFF! ON SELECTED ITEMS
APRIL 16 - MAY 1, 2005
9 AM TO 4 PM
FREE!
1 PC. GRAVY BOAT
FOR EVERY PHP 2,000 WORTH OF PURCHASE
OR
2 PCS. 16-INCH PLATTER
FOR EVERY PHP 5,000 WORTH OF PURCHASE
(CASH BASIS ONLY)
Noritake
The Finest Name in Chinaware
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A3-286 SERIES OF 2005
TO BE HELD AT:
NORITAKE PMI COMPOUND
J.P. RIZAL STREET, CONCEPCION, MARIKINA CITY
TEL NOS.: 948-4876; 941-6829;
942-1185; (941-7295 SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS)
EMAIL: info@noritakephil.com
*LOCATION MAP AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

NY judge awards $21.9M payout for Nazi victims

LOS ANGELES—Maria Altmann was still in disbelief Thursday, the day after a New York judge restored part of her family fortune by approving a $21.9 million award to her and 11 other heirs of her uncle and a business partner victimized by the Nazis.

"It's a fairy tale," the 89-year-old woman said. "It's totally like falling from the sky."

It was by far the largest single claim in a case against Swiss banks accused of stealing, concealing or sending to the Nazis hundreds of millions of dollars worth of Jewish holdings and destroying records to cover the paper trail.

Altmann, wearing a pink sweater and pearl necklace, spent part of the day listening to congratulatory phone messages from friends and relatives and talking to reporters—in English and German—at her home in the Cheviot Hills area of Los Angeles.

"It's like a novel, because I thought this was a closed chapter," she said in a voice that retains a slight Austrian accent.

In 1938, with Austria on the brink of a Nazi takeover, Altmann's uncle, Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer, business partner Otto Pick and their families sought to protect their interest in a sugar refinery by transferring their shares to a Zurich bank.

The bank guaranteed the shares would not be sold without the families' consent. But after family members were arrested or fled the country, the banks bowed to pressure to transfer the shares to a German investor in a Nazi campaign to "Aryanize" Jewish-owned businesses, according to a court-appointed tribunal that disburses funds.

Altmann recounted how a brother thought he had recovered all of her uncle's stake in the refinery when he contacted the bank in the 1950s, but the family got just $50,000 at the time.

The award will be disbursed from a $1.25 billion settlement approved in 1998 between Holocaust survivors and Credit Suisse, UBS AG and other Swiss banks.

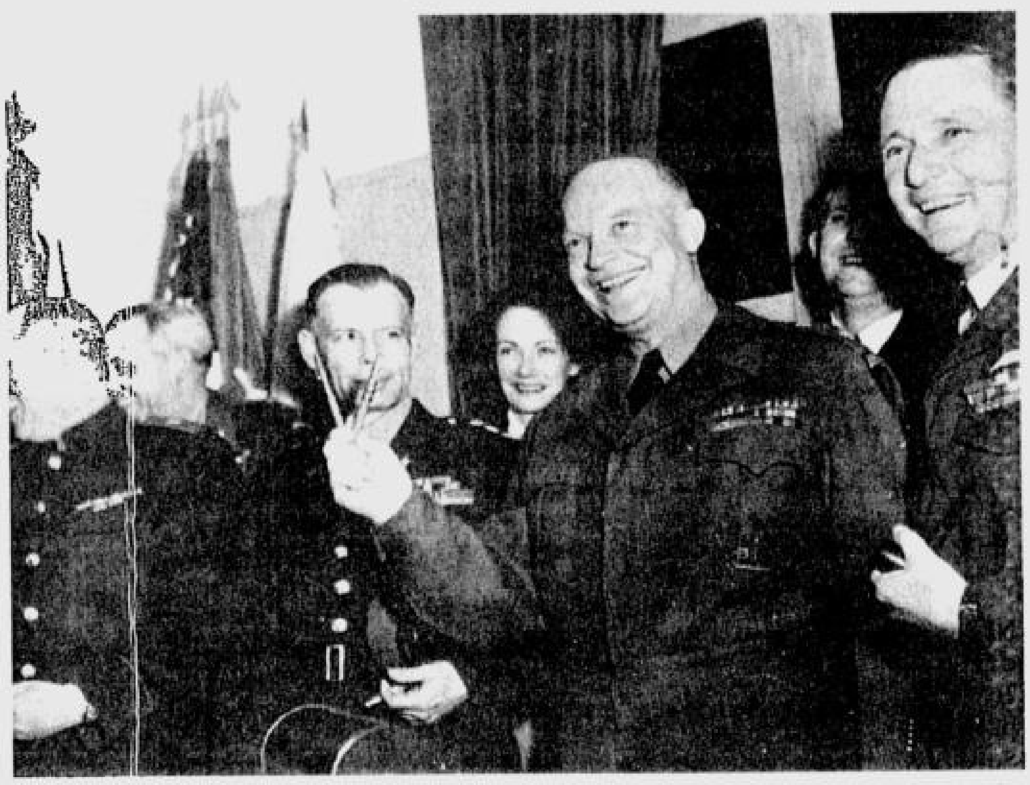
Altmann lived briefly in Nazi-occupied Austria before escaping through the Netherlands. She moved to Los Angeles with her husband in the early 1940s while he worked for a defense contractor in the war effort.

She intends to give the award money to her four children and may donate some funds to the Los Angeles Opera.

"All my life, even when I didn't have anything, I loved to give," she said.

Outside, there's a pool in her back yard and, many days, California sunshine beaming in the windows. But inside, Altmann has surrounded herself with memories of her homeland.

The walls of her one-story home are lined with pencil sketches of Austrian villages, a collection of 22 ornate watches from the 17th and 18th centuries, and paintings of relatives —including a print of a Gustav Klimt portrait of her aunt, Adele Bloch-Bauer. *AP*



HISTORIC moment—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower makes a V for Victory with two pens used for the signing of Germany's unconditional surrender at Reims, France, in this May 7, 1945 photo. AP

Being a Model, Writer, Fashion Editor and a sports enthusiast can be demanding.

Stress and wrinkles become part of my everyday life.. Staying young and beautiful seems impossible and a sad fact is I don't get any younger over time.

Now, with Clara International's gentle, safe and effective non-toxic **OXYjet BEAUty TOX** Treatment, I am guaranteed to attain that "Ageless Beauty."

"...a guaranteed 100% effective way to attain Ageless Beauty!"

Avail of our **Introductory Price** for **FPL Plasmalite Hair Removal**

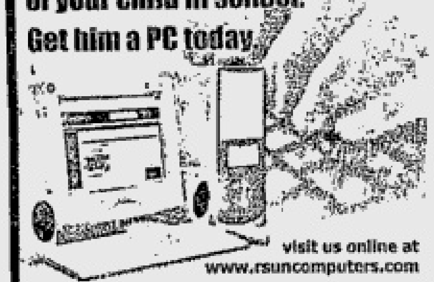
CLARA International
Since 1977
Where beauty begins... Naturally...

Unit 1-S, 2nd Flr., Sunshine Blvd. Plaza,
Quezon Ave. cor. Sct. Santiago, Q.C., Philippines 1104
Phone: (632) 374-0974 · 374-6154 Telefax: (632) 374-6085

Sweden · Switzerland · USA · Malaysia · China · Singapore

Ms. Gem B. Padilla
Bb. Pilipinas Universe 1990

New
A lot away from Robinson's-Galleria
CORINTHIAN EXECUTIVE Regency
for as low as
P7,958
monthly
CITYLAND
812-2222 • 243-6565
www.cityland.net • investment@cityland.net



Help increase the productivity of your child in school!
Get him a PC today.

PACKAGE SPECIFICATIONS
Processor Intel Pentium 4 2.4A Processor
Memory 128MB DDR
Video Integrated Video
Sound Integrated Sound/LAN
Modem 56K Internal Modem
Floppy Drive 1.44 Floppy Disk Drive
CD-ROM 52x CD-ROM Drive
Hard Drive 40GB 5400rpm Hard Disk Drive
Case ATX Casing w/ 300W PSU
Accessories PS/2 Keyboard and Mouse
Speaker 180 Watts Speakers
Monitor 15" Colored Monitor
Warranty 1 year on parts and service

as low as P21,000

visit us online at
www.rsuncomputers.com

RISING SUN
www.rsuncomputers.com

Manila:
2241 Taft Avenue,
Malate, Manila
Tel Nos: 536-2857 to 58

Mandaluyong:
713 Shaw Blvd.,
Mandaluyong City
Tel No: 722-7896

CCP has been awarded by the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA) as the #3 school with the most number of accredited programs with identified majors.

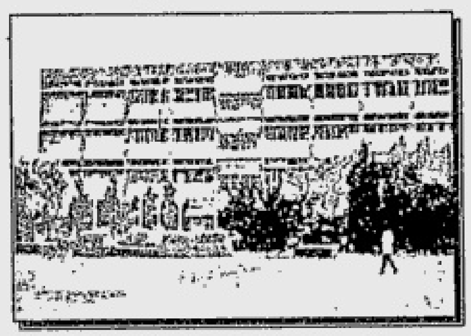
CENTRAL COLLEGES
UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES, BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Central Colleges of the Philippines paving the way to a brighter future.

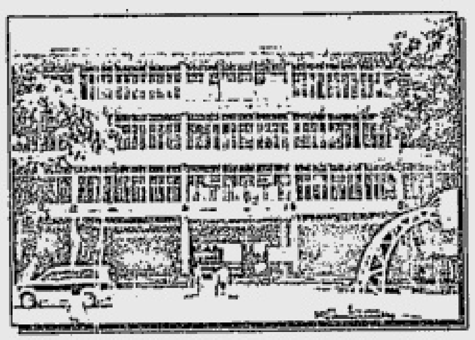
COURSES OFFERED:
B.S. Civil Engineering
B.S. Electrical Engineering
B.S. Electronics and Communications Engineering
B.S. Computer Engineering
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
B.S. Industrial Engineering
B.S. Architecture
B.S. Accountancy
B.S. Nursing
B.S. Computer Science
B.S. Information Technology
B.S. Information Management
B.S. Business Administration
  Marketing
  Management
  Economics
  Banking and Finance
  Computer Management
B.S. Education
Bachelor of Arts
  English
  Psychology
Doctor of Optometry
B.S. Office Administration
Master in Business Administration
Master in Public Administration
Master of Arts in Teaching

Tel: 715-5170 / 715-3777 / 715-0849
52 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City
www.ccp.edu.ph

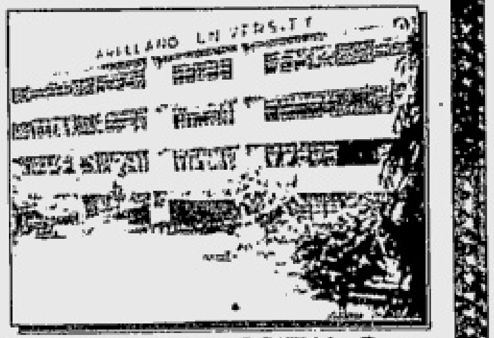
The GRAND ALLIANCE in Nursing Education



ARELLANO UNIVERSITY in Pasig
SCHOOL OF NURSING
Pag-Asa St., Caniogan, Pasig City
Tel. 641-2480 or 640-7717



ARELLANO UNIVERSITY- Main
SCHOOL OF NURSING
2600 Legarda St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tel. 734-7371 to 79 loc. 227



ARELLANO UNIVERSITY in Pasay
SCHOOL OF NURSING
3058 Taft Avenue, Pasay City
Tel. 831-8077 or 834-7487

The Alliance features:

- A tradition of 48 years in Nursing Education
- State-of-the-art nursing labs and facilities
- Highly qualified instructors
- Air-conditioned classrooms
- Extensive clinical exposure in **THE NEW MEDICAL CITY** as base hospital and 27 other hospitals in Metro Manila
- Free job placement in the USA and around the world
- Approximately more than 100,000 registered nurses to-date
- ACCELERATED NURSING PROGRAM for college graduates and professionals (2 ½ years subject to evaluation)
- One of the biggest Filipino Nursing alumni in the USA
- Nursing board topnotchers
  - Bella Albano - 1st Place in 1973
  - Olivia M. Canlas - 7th Place in 1975
  - Gloria A. Valdez - 6th Place in 1976
  - Nilda P. Padilla - 7th Place in 1976
  - Luzviminda R. Lagrimas - 6th Place in 1978
  - Eileen M. David - 7th Place in 1978
  - Susan B. Doctolero - 13th Place in 1991
  - Anamarie Luz L. Domingo - 1st Place in 1994
  - Cynthia E. Vizcayno - 5th Place in1994
  - Franklin Barberan - 2ndPlace in 2000
  - Arlene La Torre - 4th Place in 2002

www.arellano.edu.ph
auweb@arellano.edu.ph

Enrollment for the 1st semester S.Y. 2005-2006 now going on

freebies, freebeach
Canon PRIMA Zoom 80u
Canon Webcam
LBP 1120 Affordable Laser Printer
LBP 1210 Full-Featured Laser Printer
LBP 3200 Fast & Compact Laser Printer
LBP 2410 Color Laser Printer
LBP 2000 A3 + Laser Printer

Canon
Delighting You Always

Get a FREE Canon Prima Zoom 80u Camera or a Canon Webcam for every purchase of a Canon Laser Beam Printer. Plus, get a chance to join the raffle for a chance to win a free vacation for two to Boracay!

Canon Laser Beam Printers
- Cost Efficient
- Fast
- Professional Quality Prints
- Canon Advanced Printing Technology
- Zero Warm-Up Time for CAPT Printers

LASER SHOT
CAPT

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

See posters for details. Promo Duration: April 13 to May 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0908, Series of 2005

South & Southeast Asia Regional Headquarters:
Canon Singapore Pte Ltd 1 HarbourFront Avenue, #04-01, Keppel Bay Tower, Singapore 098632 • www.canon-asia.com
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tels.. 812-6047 • Fax: 894-4174 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

MDR Microwave Sales
N. Escario St. cor. Clavano St., Cebu City
[illegible]

GLEE Electronics
33 A. Rita St., San Juan, Metro Manila
[illegible]

Uplink Systems, Inc.
Ortigas
[illegible]

China braces for new anti-Japan protests

BEIJING—Major Chinese cities are gearing up for possible large-scale anti-Japanese protests this weekend as Japan's diplomatic missions issued urgent alerts Friday for its citizens to adopt caution.

Word was spreading on China's anti-Japanese websites and Internet forums of a second wave of rallies following violent protests by tens of thousands last weekend.

Demonstrations are planned in cities across the country including Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenyang, Chengdu, Hangzhou, Tianjin and Wuhan—with some to be held Saturday and others Sunday, they said.

The protests coincide with the scheduled arrival Sunday of Japan's Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura.

It was unclear whether Beijing, under pressure from Tokyo to halt the demonstrations, will allow them to take place, especially as they come close to sensitive dates such as the start of the 1989 pro-democracy protests.

"We're still awaiting word from the city police department on whether to allow protestors on Tiananmen Square," said a police officer stationed in the area, where the Beijing protest is scheduled to start Saturday.

In preparation, Japanese diplomatic missions in China issued an urgent alert to its nationals here, recommending they keep a low profile and avoid protest venues.

It also advised them to be "careful in remarks and behavior when coming in contact with Chinese people including employees (at Japanese companies)" and "refrain from making provocative acts."

Last weekend, thousands of people took to the streets in three Chinese cities protesting perceptions that Japan has not atoned for its militarist past including its bloody 1931-1945 occupation of China.

They were also against Japan's bid for the UN seat, throwing stones and bottles at the Japanese Embassy and ambassador's residence in Beijing.

Some anti-Japanese web pages that had announced details of this weekend's protests were shut down Thursday, suggesting the government may be trying to cool tempers and limit their size, if not ban them outright.

Analysts said Beijing may have condoned the previous rallies to allow people to let off steam and to bolster its position in a host of disputes with Japan over wartime history, energy, sea territory, and Tokyo's bid for a permanent Security Council seat.

However, it is on guard against the protests spiraling out of control.

"If they allow the protests to continue, it will be a risk to domestic politics," said Wong Yiu-Chung, a Hong Kong Lingnan University analyst.

The protests come as tensions between the two Asian giants escalate.

Japan ended decades of hesitation Wednesday and said it would let its companies drill for oil and gas in the disputed East China Sea. Beijing, which began drilling in 2003, called the move a "provocation."

Japan, meanwhile, said Friday China had become a "serious problem" to its security and sovereignty through its energy development in the contested sea and last year's incursion of a Chinese nuclear submarine in the area.

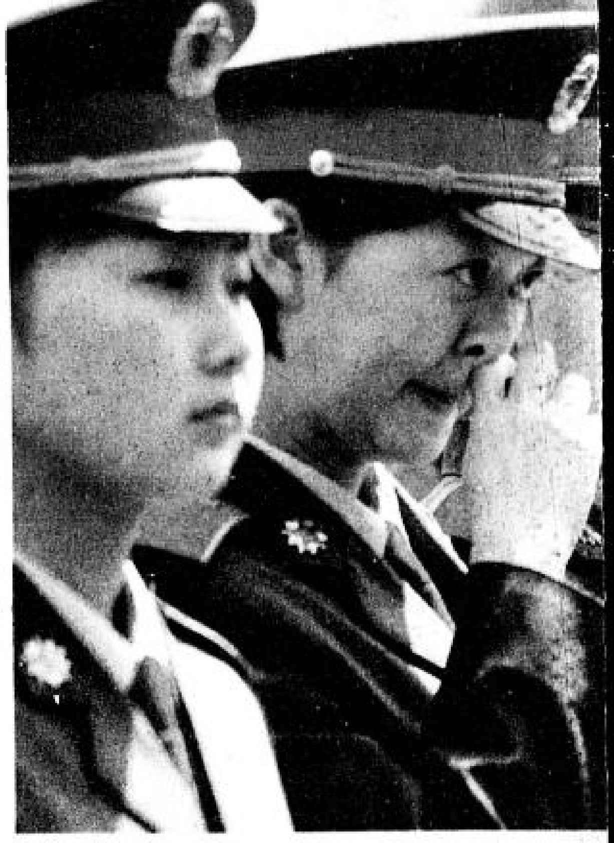
But Tokyo's annual report on diplomacy, released Friday, also said both countries should mend fences and that stable relations were "indispensable" for regional peace.

Machimura is due to tell the Chinese government to halt alleged official approval of the demonstrations when he meets his counterpart Li Zhaoxing Sunday.

"I want the Chinese people to recognize and understand Japan-China relations are being negatively impacted," Machimura said Friday.

In New York, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan also called for reconciliation.

"I hope this issue will be handled in a manner that will not escalate. I rely on the wisdom of the two countries to find a way out," he told reporters. *AFP*



THE PALACE of the Principality of Monaco is reflected in a shop window where a photograph of Monaco's Prince Rainier III, adorned with a black mourning ribbon, is on display April 14. REUTERS

Monaco bids final farewell to Prince Rainier

MONACO—Residents of the tiny principality of Monaco gathered in front of the royal palace Friday to bid farewell to Prince Rainier III, before he was laid to rest beside his beloved wife Grace after a funeral attended by royalty and world leaders.

From early morning crowds lined the 200-meter route—through the palace square and down a narrow side street—along which Rainier's bier was to be carried by 10 members of the royal guard to the Cathedral of St. Nicholas for the midday service.

Wreathes of flowers covered security barricades as well as the steps of the white 19th-century cathedral, which stands high on the edge of Monaco's old quarter with a stunning view over the Mediterranean sea.

A descendant of the 700-year-old Grimaldi dynasty, Rainier took power in 1949 and was Europe's longest-ruling monarch when he died on April 6 after a month in hospital battling heart, lung and kidney problems.

He is succeeded by his son Prince Albert II, who will lead the mourners alongside his sisters Caroline and Stephanie.

French President Jacques Chirac, King Juan Carlos of Spain and Britain's Prince Andrew were among the dignitaries due at the funeral, which has triggered an unprecedented security clampdown by Monegasque and French authorities.

Hundreds of police lined roads into the principality and much of the Rock—the promontory over the harbor where palace and cathedral both lie—was sealed off to nonresidents. Airspace over the area was closed and waters off the coast declared off-limits.

Shops and businesses were shut across the tiny statelet—which is no bigger than New York's Central Park—and red-and-white Monegasque flags were at half mast or furled with black ribbon. Many shop windows bore portraits of the late prince and his family.

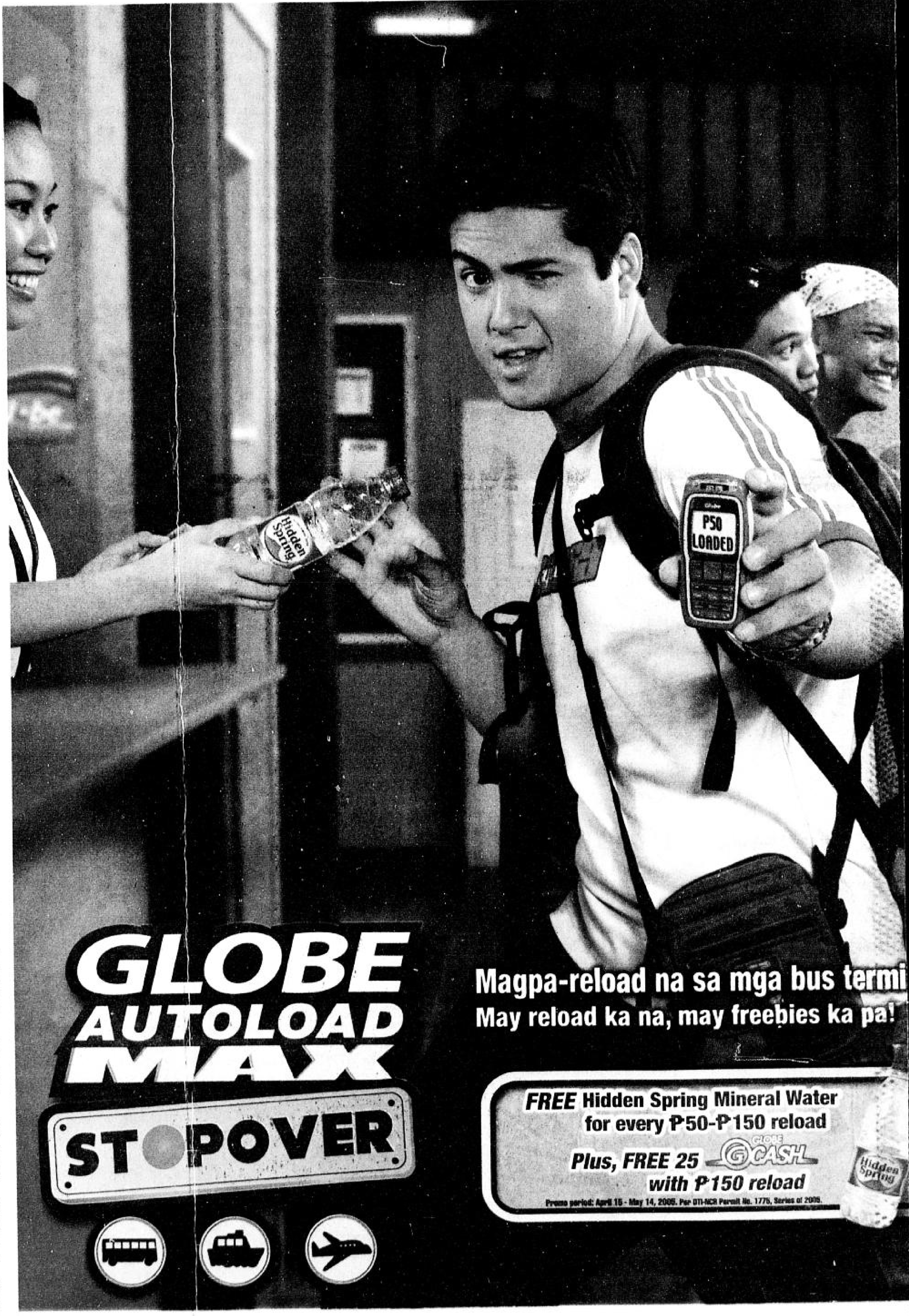
Over his long rule Rainier is credited with turning Monaco from a Riviera backwater into a thriving center of tourism and banking. He used his business acumen to modernize the economy and transformed a barren coastline into an urban crush of tunnels and high-rises.

But the prince will be best remembered for his fairy-tale marriage to Grace Kelly, which ended in tragedy when the Oscar-winning US actress died in a car crash in 1982. He was to be interred after Friday's service next to his princess in the cathedral's crypt.

A host of European royals were to attend the funeral, including King Albert II of Belgium, King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden, Queen Sonja of Norway, and Crown Prince Willem Alexander of the Netherlands.

Other dignitaries were to include Presidents Mary McAleese of Ireland and Janez Drnovsek of Slovenia, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Farah Pahlavi, the widow of the shah of Iran.

The Grimaldis were to host an afternoon reception for several hundred guests after the funeral. A requiem Mass in the cathedral for residents of Monaco was set for 6:30 p.m., before Rainier was finally laid to rest in strict privacy. *AFP*


Hidden Spring
Globe
P50
LOADED
GLOBE
AUTOLOAD
MAX
STOPOVER
Magpa-reload na sa mga bus termi
May reload ka na, may freebies ka pa!
Hidden Spring

FREE Hidden Spring Mineral Water for every ₱50-₱150 reload

Plus, FREE 25 GLOBE GCASH with ₱150 reload

Promo period: April 16 - May 14, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1775, Series of 2005.

Just look for the AutoloadMAX Stopover sign in these participating partners nationwide:

ARIN S TRANS F SuperFerry PETRON Star

Bus Terminals Stopovers: Ceres Bus Lines •
• NKS Telecom • Alps Bus Stop • MKC Cellshop
• EUG Liner • Buban Liner/ St. Jude Liner • Dag
• Cellphone Repair • Igen Trading • Emergency
Terminals: Four Corners • Velamart • Metro FX
• Sea Oil • Milano Gas Service/Sea Oil Pntl **Ship**
Snack Haus • M&M • Sitti Aina • J&J • ACC Sup
• Yong's Eatery • Loakan Sari Sari Store • U War

PEOPLE'S Liberation Army (PLA) women soldiers wait outside the Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square before attending a function inside, April 15. Major Chinese cities are gearing up for possible nationwide large-scale anti-Japanese protests th weekend with police in Beijing. FP

PLA veterans stage public display of dissent

BEIJING—About 2,000 retired servicemen from across China staged sit-down protests in Beijing this week to demand pension increases in a public display of dissent that has alarmed the leadership, a military source and witnesses said.

The back-to-back demonstrations from Monday to Wednesday were the biggest by veterans in China since the 1949 revolution and unsettling for the Communist Party which has relied on the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to maintain its five-decade-old monopoly on power.

The protests came on the heels of violent anti-Japanese demonstrations in Beijing and southern China over the weekend against a revised school textbook that China says glosses over wartime atrocities.

Wearing their old uniforms, more than 1,500 retired PLA officers from about 20 provinces staged a peaceful sit-down protest outside the Beijing office of the General Political Department on Monday and Tuesday, the military source and the witnesses said.

"The government was caught unprepared... It is worried veterans will continue to link up and bring chaos to society," the military source told Reuters on Friday.

Police and local officials dispersed the protest 36 hours later by forcibly putting the petitioners on rented buses or trains and sending them back to their hometowns, said the military source and the witnesses who all requested anonymity.

On Wednesday, more than 400 retired rank-and-file soldiers from nine provinces staged a brief protest on the doorsteps of the General Political Department, a branch of the PLA which oversees personnel, propaganda dissemination, song and dance troupes and athletes.

Police were prepared this time and shunted the group to an indoor sports stadium in Fengtai in suburban Beijing before being sent home, the PLA source and the witnesses said.

Analysts said the protests were only the tip of the iceberg.

Millions of low-ranking PLA officers and rank-and-file soldiers who were given jobs at state-owned enterprises after retirement feel their pay and new status fail to live up to their contributions to the country. Many have lost their jobs because most state firms are losing money.

Authorities were investigating who organized the protests by the veterans and how they managed to liaise amongst one another.

Freedom of assembly and association is enshrined in China's constitution, but the authorities are obsessed with stability and regularly crack down on organized dissent.

The demonstrations were all the more unnerving for Beijing which sees the PLA as a tool to hold on to power and sent troops backed by tanks to crush student-led demonstrations for democracy centered on Tiananmen Square in Beijing on June 4, 1989.

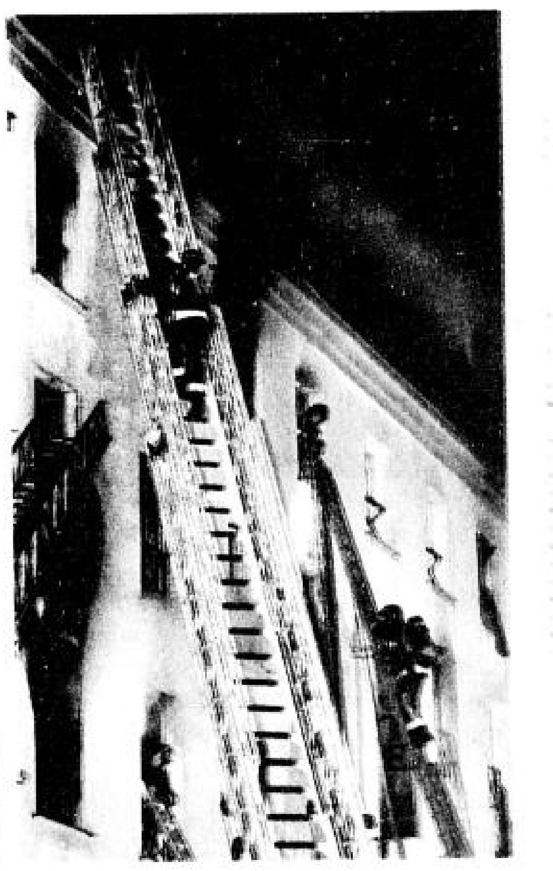
The late Communist Party chair Mao Zedong once said:

"Power comes from the barrel of the gun." The Communists pamper senior PLA officers, both active and retired.

In a military coup in 1976, Mao's widow and members of her reviled Gang of Four were arrested shortly after his death. *Reuters*

LOADING
nals, ferry ports, airports at gas sta:ions ngayong summer!
Nestlé Waters
making great summer possible
Globe
HANDYPHONE

ariñas Trans • Partas Transportation Inc. • G-Liner Bus Company • Swift Stop • EMBC • Sup lines Canteen • RNL Store • TGT Telecoms • Zeny Store • RBC General Merchandise
ue • Azulrem Gen. Mdse. • Merluza Candy Store • Nolasco Canteen • Hans Telecom • Luci Maketing • TSS • Joreml • Sir Lord • Ritz Marie • Cellcard Station1 • Cabel Store • Great Fit
pan Bus Company Inc. • Shell Treasure Island Subic Zambales • CCQ Bus Stop • G&B BukPie • RVK Express • Balamban Transit **Jeepney Terminals:** Candava Store • Cellpoint
rug Store **Tricycle Terminals:** Osias M Amante • Jody Roy Store • Myra's Store • Rullama's tore • AB Vargas • Clebelles Phones • JPL Store • Gymrics • Mavin's Cellcard **FX & Van**
Terminal • N3R Trading • Jade and Bianca • Polar Drugs • Jimmy and 3 Sisters San Gabrie uto Supply • Sonny Fruit Stand **Gas Stations** (select outlets): Petron • Caltex Starmart
pping Lines & Ferry Port Stopovers: Super Ferry • Supercat • Starsy Shoppe Inc/Trans Asia hipping Lines • Cell Site Trading • Comm Station • Aling Nitz Carinderia & Store • KCES
rmart • Gazel Touch • Inter specs **Airport Stopovers:** Airline Canteen • Three Sisters M/M • wi's Store
t Store • Gemgem Eatery • Airport Canteen



FIREFIGHTERS working on the facade of the Paris-Opera hotel in central Paris, early April 15, after a fire broke out. AFP

Fire at Paris hotel leaves 6 dead, 50 hurt

PARIS—Fire tore through a central Paris hotel packed with immigrants and tourists early Friday, killing at least 16 people, four of them children, and injuring 55 in one of the deadliest blazes in the capital in 20 years.

Some guests leapt from windows to escape the blaze, which destroyed the six-story one-star Paris-Opera hotel, located in a narrow street behind the upmarket Galeries Lafayette department store and near the Opera Garnier, firefighters and witnesses said.

Several prostitutes working in small hotels in the area witnessed the fire.

One of them, Laure, a 41-year-old brunette, said she heard "screams and cries for help" from the guests who were sleeping when the fire broke out, some of whom jumped from their windows, landing on the street with a "thud."

She told AFP she and several others helped some women in the hotel to escape through a skylight window.

The bodies of several victims were found in the rooms, and one firefighter was seen struggling to bring the body of a woman down a ladder.

As an investigation got under way, a police source said the cause of the blaze was "undoubtedly accidental." Investigators at the scene "have not found, according to their preliminary tests, any evidence that would lead us to think this was a criminal fire," the source told AFP.

The hotel was used both by ordinary tourists and as temporary housing for needy families.

Four of the 15 dead were children. A total of 55 were injured, 13 of them seriously, from burns, smoke inhalation or shock, said fire service spokesperson Capt. Laurent Vibert. Two firefighters were slightly hurt.

Emergency services said the death toll could still rise. One official said the number of dead would have been much lower had residents remained in their rooms and not tried to flee the flames.

Among the injured were French, Senegalese, Portuguese, Ivorian, American, Ukrainian and Tunisian nationals. No information was immediately available about the identities of the dead.

More than 250 firefighters and emergency personnel rushed to the scene in the city's ninth district after the fire broke out at about 2 a.m.

Firefighters had the blaze under control by 3:30 a.m., but the last flames were only extinguished just before 6 a.m. But they were continuing to search the top two floors, where thick smoke remained and floors were weak.

The acrid smell of smoke permeated the air several blocks away from the scene. Police closed several roads near the hotel to traffic. *AFP*

ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 19 No. 127

OPINION

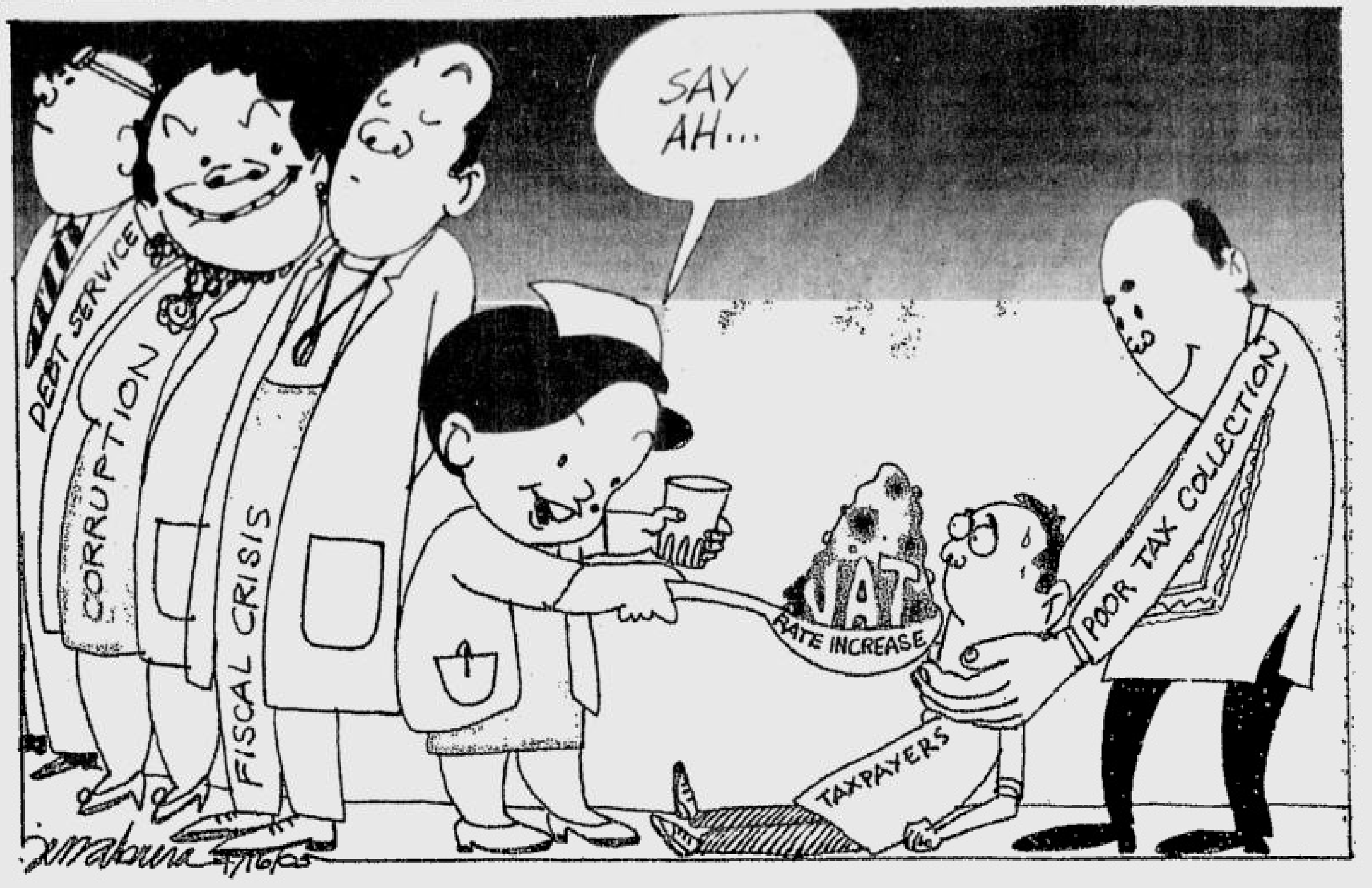
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Gambling nation

EDITORIAL

GAMBLING is a government monopoly, made so on the premise that the poor can benefit from it. And that's the only justification for the vice. That is why gambling is managed in such a way as to provide funding for all sorts of social welfare projects under the auspices of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office or the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Still, the harmful nature of gambling is implicitly acknowledged by countless government regulations meant to keep young people from falling into the vice of gambling. Casinos have age limits; games of chance are forbidden in the vicinity of schools; young people aren't allowed to enter racetracks or participate in cockfights.

A few days ago, Pagcor was accused of cooking up a new gambling scheme that would revolve around "text gaming," that is, using cell phones as means to play games of chance. The accusation came after Pagcor filed with the National Telecommunications Commission an application for a four-digit access code. Various groups have voiced their opposition to this scheme, and rightly so.

The following day, Pagcor denied it had such plans. The application for a four-digit code, it explained, was meant to help it determine how much the telecom companies are raking in through text gaming and establish how much of the income should go to the government. Pagcor had noted that telecom companies and broadcast networks have been into text gaming for some time, easily earning millions of pesos.

Pagcor's application, if approved, will institutionalize and promote text gaming.

While the government maintains a monopoly on gambling operations (in theory, at least), and is the primary beneficiary of gambling proceeds, this doesn't mean that promoting gambling should be a national priority.

In the lax and easy days of the Estrada administration, gambling, which was made a presidential pastime, became something of a national priority. Estrada believed much could be gained from freeing up many existing limitations on gambling, to the extent that he proposed legalizing games of chance particularly harmful to the poor, such as *jueteng*. To his mind, if illegal gambling was going on, anyway, why not simply legalize it, and allow government to partake of its profits? By and large, the Filipino people disagreed with Estrada, and his inability to see the moral and financial harmfulness of unlimited gambling helped erode his popularity and legitimacy.

Text gaming opens up gambling to the youth, who are already dangerously addicted to all things cell phone-related. The youth spend time and money on cell phones—texting, sending pictures and files, and buying peripherals and accessories—indeed, in ways and scale that apparently are doubtfully wholesome or financially wise. Not a few parents have to contend with the "wild irresponsibility" of kids who have to have the latest cell phones and use them without regard to the costs involved. In other words, kids could easily get addicted to games of chance played via cell phones. This could only mean more, if untold, financial burdens for parents and for the children themselves.

Imagine all the laws and rules, in place to protect children from being addicted to gambling, rendered inutile by text gaming.

We know—from PCIJ reports regarding illegal games of chance made accessible to children—that kids are susceptible to the addiction and frenzied excitement of gambling. With so many immoral temptations facing the youth these days, the last thing Filipino society needs is an institutionalized text gaming.

After Edsa II, the "new" Pagcor claimed it was going to promote "responsible gaming." Since the departure of Alice Reyes, Pagcor seems to think its sole responsibility is to raise revenues for the government, never mind if in the process it promotes addiction to gambling. Never have there been more casinos, operating 24 hours. And they have certainly "invaded" more neighborhoods than ever, thus more easily accessible to a lot of people, including "*balikbayan*" overseas Filipino workers.

Besides, there are the daily lotto and sweepstakes, horseracing, cockfighting. Does the country need yet another means for people to lose their hard-earned cash on the slim hope of beating the odds? Our children deserve better than to be handed the means of inculcating a life-destroying addiction so easily, smoothly, and, in the beginning, painlessly.

No, the government, or Pagcor for that matter, should not earn from text gaming. It should not even just regulate it, it should totally prohibit it.

Abolish the bar examinations?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I AGREE with Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago that the bar examinations are not a reliable gauge of the qualifications of prospective lawyers. They certainly are not a guaranty of their competence, let alone their moral character. These requisites are determined only later, in the exercise of their profession, which is one that, unlike other less sensitive careers, directly affects the public interest.

There are many lawyers who have taken advantage of their record in the bar examinations as topnotchers or at least among the top 10 successful candidates. Among them are Manuel A. Roxas, Emmanuel Pelaez, Diosdado Macapagal, Ferdinand Marcos, Lorenzo Sumulong, Hermenegildo Atienza, Jovito R. Salonga and Jose W. Diokno, who all later had distinguished political careers.

In this group are those who placed among the first 10 examinees, including Carlos P. Garcia, Cipriano Primicias, Arturo M. Tolentino, Ambrosio Padilla, Macario Peralta, Dominador Aytona, Rodolfo Ganzon, Estanislao Fernandez, Ernesto Maceda, Neptali A. Gonzales and Aguedo F. Agbayani.

Among the top 10 who made it to the Supreme Court are Alejo Labrador, Jose P. Laurel, Cesar Bengzon, Conrado Sanchez, Roberto Concepcion, Cecilia Muñoz Palma, Claudio Teehankee, Felix Makasiar, Ramon Fernandez, Ramon Aquino, Pacifico de Castro, Buenventura de la Fuente, Pedro L. Yap, Ameurfina M. Herrera, Irene R. Cortes, Carolina G. Aquino, Andres R. Narvasa, Florentino Feliciano, Florenz D. Regalado and Jose C. Campos.

Manuel G. Montecillo topped the bar exams in 1948 and soon became a prominent lawyer, along with Enrique M. Belo, Generoso V. Jacinto, Jaime Nuevas, Juan M. Hagad, Agustin Benitez and Custodio Parlade. Leoncio B. Monzon, a second placer in his own exams, was a respected dean of other law teachers, including Jose Zafra, Jose Papa, Lorenzo Miravite, Ciriaco Lopez Jr., Perfecto V. Fernandez and Sergio Apostol. In my own batch of 1951, Narvasa and I became members of the Supreme Court, Pablo Garcia and Isidro Zarraga of the House of Representatives, and the rest, including Vicente Acsay, William Veto and Benildo Hernandez, outstanding practitioners.

Sadly, many of the lawyers who landed in the top 10 did not savor for long their brief moment of glory and have since been lost in obscurity. Worse, some of them have engaged in activities unbecoming their academic distinction, foremost among them being the dictator Marcos. On the other hand, there are many lawyers who did not shine in the bar examinations, and may even have flunked them before, but have redeemed themselves with their brilliant accomplishments as practitioners.

Some bar examinations have been marked with corruption, beginning with the 1926 case where a niece of a sitting justice falsified the scores of an examinee, the illicit upgrading of another justice's son in 1981, the leakage of the examination questions in Taxation and Labor Laws in 1979 and in Commercial Law in 2003, and the irregularity of a candidate taking the 1999 examinations during the term of his uncle as chairman of the examining committee and, reportedly, of even participating in their correction.

But while agreeing that the bar examinations are not a reliable test of the lawyer's competence and integrity, I cannot support Senator Santiago's proposal to abolish them altogether. Her plan to leave it to the law schools themselves to determine who among their students should qualify for admission to the Philippine bar is far too idealistic. It will result in the congestion of the law profession with half-baked shysters from the hundreds of poorly regulated diploma mills selling their degrees for a fee.

The more important reason is that Congress cannot prohibit the bar examinations because the Rules of Court prescribing the tests is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. These Rules used to be subject to the power of Congress to "repeal, alter or supplement," but not any more. This power was originally reserved to the legislature under the Constitution of 1935 and was reiterated in the Constitution of 1973, but it is no longer available under the present Charter.

Article VIII, Sec. 5(5) authorizes the Supreme Court to promulgate Rules concerning, *inter alia*, "admission to the practice of law" subject only to the requirement that they "shall be uniform for all courts of the same grade and shall not diminish, increase or modify substantive rights." Nowhere does it add, as under the Commonwealth Constitution and substantially in the 1973 Constitution, that "Congress shall have the power to repeal, alter or supplement, the rules concerning pleading practice and procedure and the admission to the practice of law in the Philippines."

The deletion of this provision in the present Constitution clearly indicates the intention of its framers to withdraw from Congress and exclusively vest in the Supreme Court the power to alone prescribe or discontinue the bar examinations as a requirement for admission to the practice of law in this country.

I share Senator Santiago's hope for the replacement of the bar examinations with a better method for insuring the better quality of lawyers, but it is the Supreme Court and not Congress that should devise and adopt it.

Watch out for the jokes

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

NOW the horse-trading begins with the first meeting of the bicameral conference committee on the VAT bill. And the lobby activities of the big business, professional and other interest groups will reach their peak, as they maneuver either to insert provisions that protect the advantages they now enjoy into the final version of the bill, or to remove the provisions that put them at a disadvantage. This is their last and main chance to lobby, because the all-powerful committee, also called the Third House, can take out—or put in—any provisions it so desires, even those which were never considered in either the House or the Senate. In this manner are public choices—decisions which affect national welfare—in the Philippines made.

For example, it was in a bicam meeting where the "poison pill" provision was inserted in the 1997 sin tax bill, so-called because it cost the government increasingly larger and larger amounts in annual lost revenues. The sin tax rates are based on cigarette prices, and the "poison pill" provided that for purposes of determining what rate category a cigarette brand fell under, the cigarette prices used would be pegged (until Congress decided otherwise) at 1996 prices. It is obvious that the Lucio Tan cigarette companies were the main beneficiaries of the provision. Interestingly, and shamefully, that "poison pill" was not taken out in the 2004 sin tax bill, so that the revenue loss continues. For the record, the congressman who inserted that poison pill that has caused so many Filipinos to suffer because of lack of government resources is Rep. Ex Javier of Antique. I have a strong feeling that he is again part of the VAT bicam committee.

Looking at the bright side, the bicam is also the last chance for the President and her executive department to achieve her objective on the VAT, which—one is fairly certain—is to maximize revenue subject to equity constraints. Or to put it differently, to ensure that the additional revenue from VAT will make a substantial contribution to the amounts needed (the "UP 11" estimates this to be at least P108 billion for 2005) to stave off both a sudden collapse (foreign exchange crisis) and a slow asphyxiation (inadequate human development expenditures).

The President's involvement will hopefully even out the odds against the Filipino people. Without her intervention, private interests—financial and/or political—will carry the day. Bicam members who are trying to maximize the social welfare function would be the exception. The members "captured" by powerful business and professional groups or their representatives would be the rule; not to mention those whose actions and decisions are driven by reelection plans or plans for higher office. This early in the game, they are already preparing their campaign paraphernalia proclaiming their refusal to add to the people's tax burdens. They are shooting two birds with one stone—assuring resources for their campaign kitty, while building up "*pogi*" points with their constituents.

Which will prevail: the national interest or vested interests? That's what's at stake in the bicam. And the President will be the deciding factor. Let us hope she doesn't fumble.

The problem is that aside from the thorny question of whether the VAT rate remains at 10 percent (Senate version) or goes up to 12 percent (House version), there are vested interests that she may not be too eager to contend with, or she may actually favor. So the question really is—will she remain a politician or will she graduate to statesmanship? A few examples:

There are the vested interests associated with international shipping and air transport—the biggest one being Lucio Tan, but the Aboitiz and Gokongwei interests are also served. Both chambers have given them zero-rated status—meaning to say, not only are they VAT-exempt, they can claim tax credits for the input VATs they pay. Other groups with zero-rates (e.g., the independent power producers) will also work hard to make sure things are not changed and they keep their privilege.

There are the vested interests associated with night and day entertainment. The Senate bill wants the tax on the industry shifted from an 18-percent amusement tax to a 10-percent VAT, which, considering their input VAT credits, means they will pay much less.

There are the medical and legal practitioners, whose exemptions have been removed, more or less (the Senate more, the House less).

There are the private corporations (but only the taxpayers; tax evaders couldn't care less) whose income tax is being raised from 32 percent to 35 percent for the next three years, but will be lowered to 30 percent after that.

And the manufacturers, such as the canned fish producers, which are allowed higher presumptive input-VAT rates.

But being who we are, there is also a light side to these weighty issues. The running joke in the House is that it took the senators 100 days to come up with a voluminous bill, while the congressmen took less than half that time and less than half the paper. The delay and the volume, they speculate, must be because there was a need to hide a lot of pig parts (pork) inside the "jungle" of verbiage. The orders given to the bicam members: find the pork in the jungle, make sure that they get their share. Or take it from their Senate colleagues. Last I heard, they had found the pork parts.

I wonder if the Senate has its own version of the joke.

Let's hope that the joke is not on the Filipino people

JPII set rules for Monday's conclave

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

EARLIER, I cited the history of papal elections in the last two millenniums, as gleaned from the book by Greg Tobin, titled "Selecting the Pope." The process of electing a pope has undergone enormous changes since the time of the earliest successors to Peter the Apostle. The book showed that in the first 500 years, the Pope was elected by a combination of cardinal/bishops, priests and the laity. But since 1517 during Leo X's reign, that task was left entirely to the College of Cardinals who meet in a conclave soon after the old pope's funeral.

This Monday the historic conclave to elect John Paul II's successor begins in the Sistine Chapel with 117 Cardinal electors. Because the influence of the pope extends far beyond the boundaries of his 44-hectare city-state, this election will draw the eyes of the world.

* * *

Over the centuries, particularly in recent times, every pope sought to refine the selection of his own successor. John Paul II was no exception. On Feb. 22, 1996 (Feast of the Chair of St. Peter), the 18th year of his pontificate, and nine years before he died, JPII issued the "Apostolic Constitution, Universi Dominici Gregis, on the Vacancy of the Apostolic See and the Election of the Roman Pontiff." The document could be called in modern parlance an "operating manual," laying down in great detail the "fitting norms" regarding two related events: the vacancy to be caused by his death and the election of his successor. The John Paul who comes across in this 63-page document is not the gentle, baby-kissing prelate who bore his sufferings in a manner that touched the world; rather, he sounded like a stern ruler who admonished in very strong terms his subalterns on how to conduct a most important function—a credible election for his successor. It's a series of do's and don'ts that bore the tone of an imperious command.

* * *

In his preface to the document, JPII cited how all his predecessors, especially from St. Pius X to Pope Paul VI, deemed it "their special duty, as well as their specific right," based on "indisputable principle," to establish these norms of election, according to the needs of "the particular historical moment." JPII stressed that what moved him to issue them was "not any lack of esteem" for the norms spelled out by his predecessors, but his awareness of "the Church's changed situation today" and recent revisions of Canon Law.

Reaffirming that the election of his successor is entrusted to the College of Cardinals, JPII stressed the seriousness of their task based on a syllogistic relationship—it is a "doctrine of faith" that the power of the Supreme Pontiff derives "directly from Christ, whose earthly Vicar he is"; but it is also certain that this supreme power is granted to him by means of "lawful election" and episcopal consecration. Thus, he said, the norms which regulate this election "need to be very precise and clear," so that it will take place in a manner befitting this "divinely-mandated" office.

* * *

JPII, stressing the universality of the Church by drawing Cardinals from all parts of the world and very different cultures, fixed the maximum membership of the College of Cardinals at 120 (which he filled during his papacy). But he retained the provision laid down by Paul VI: cardinals who have turned 80 before the Pope dies will not take part in the election of his successor. Stressing that he does not want to add more burden to the "weight of such venerable age," he tasked the older cardinals, however, to lead the prayer brigades around the world for the voting cardinals.

* * *

JPII decreed that the electors are to live within the Vatican during the entire deliberations which will be held within the Sistine Chapel "where everything is conducive to an awareness of the presence of God" (most especially Michelangelo's 500-year-old frescoes of the Creation and the Last Judgment). He did away with election by acclamation or "per compromissum" as his predecessors in past centuries had done; instead he ordered secret balloting—an option that, for him, offers the "greatest guarantee of clarity, straightforwardness, simplicity, openness and effective participation" by the cardinals.

* * *

JPII retained the two-thirds vote required to elect a Pope, but ruled that in the event this number is not obtained after three days of balloting, voting is suspended for a day to allow prayer, informal discussions and "spiritual exhortations." From there, he allows three more rounds of seven ballots each, with sufficient "day-pauses" in between. If after these four rounds, the two-thirds vote is still not obtained, then the Camerlengo will invite the electors to express an opinion about the manner of proceeding, and majority rule will apply. But JPII limits their choice of breaking the impasse at this point to one of two options—voting to get just an absolute majority (no longer the two-thirds vote), or limiting the voting to the two names in the immediately preceding ballot which have received the most votes. In the "runoff" option, whoever gets the absolute majority becomes pope.

* * *

In that document, JPII forbade, under pain of excommunication, the buying of the papal office, pre-election campaigning or entering into "pacts" with other cardinals, or speaking to the "secular world" about preferences. He exhorted his cardinals not to allow themselves "to be guided by friendship or aversion, or to be influenced by favor or personal relationships toward anyone, or to be constrained by the interference of persons in authority or by pressure groups, by the suggestion of the mass media, or by force, fear or the pursuit of popularity." In other words, to just let the Holy Spirit work on their decision. Amen.

Believing

YOUNG BLOOD

Jerraleen J. Balais

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

WHENEVER I see a situation where there's a clash between a religious value and social responsibility, I can't help but react with a raised eyebrow, a sarcastic smile, and a feeling of disappointment. Because it makes me wonder—do they really have to be in collision, to begin with?

I want to work this coming school year, so one Sunday, I bought a newspaper and scoured its classified ads section, highlighting the jobs that interested me, and then calling the outfits that offered them.

The first three things I look for in a company are its mission, vision and goals. I mean, what's the use of working in a place where I wouldn't get any personal fulfillment? For me, work is not just about earning money. It's all about becoming the person that you are, and the best person that you can be. So I make sure that the company should, at least, have the same values as the ones I uphold or aspire for.

I found this non-government organization looking for a program development facilitator for children. Its ad caught my attention because of its emphasis on "compassion." As a key requirement, it also demanded of applicants "a personal relationship with God and a deep foundation on Christ's teachings."

I called them up. I'm Jerlin and I would like to inquire about the ad you placed in the newspaper. I've also visited your website and am impressed with your organization. I'm very much interested to join your group. I'm a Catholic. Do you accept Catholic applicants? (I was aware that the NGO belonged to a "born-again Christian" denomination.)

Silence for about 10 seconds from the other line. No, came the reply (as if it was the first time she heard the question from an applicant). I am really sorry, but that is our discrimination here. (Yes, she really used the "d" word.) Our Christian organization is very careful on that policy. We make sure that all of our workers are grounded on the same foundation. I am really sorry.

I said okay, no problem. Thank you very much, and I placed the phone down.

I know that it is the prerogative of a company to hire the workers it wants and to set the standards as to who would qualify for a particular job. And, indeed, if I were in the shoes of that company, I would most probably also like to see that everybody in the workplace is strongly grounded on the same values and beliefs. I bear no grudge on the NGO's selectivity in the hiring of its employees.

But I was thinking: How could an agency be compassionate and practice religious discrimination at the same time?

As a Catholic, I must admit that we have a lot of Church-based organizations that prefer to hire Catholics. And for the record, I have nothing against other religions and faiths, no matter the differences in our beliefs. But sometimes, I just wonder why religion should be a requirement in doing social work.

I know religion is a way of life. It should be an essential basis for what we do, why we do something, and how we do things. Religion is not just one aspect of life because it influences life's every aspect.

And I do believe that God is universal. He is love. And love is for everyone, whether you see it through Jesus Christ, or Allah, or Buddha. I was raised understanding that "compassion" itself means unconditional love for everyone, especially for those who are marginalized and discriminated. So, I guess, I was kind of disappointed to be caught right in the heart of a situation where religious values clashed with reality.

We have to accept the reality that religions differ much in their faiths and beliefs. But it is as much a reality that they share as well many things in common: Respect for human dignity, belief in order, well-being, peace, harmony, hope, charity, sharing, unity, and love, among others. Why can't we just focus on these shared values and aspirations?

It is not collision that we need. It is coalition. And I do not mean uniting all peoples under one religion just like Beatle John Lennon dreamed in his hit song "Imagine."

Still, reality is closer than we think: I do not dream of a perfect world, but I do dream of a better one. And while working on this better world, maybe, we can look forward to the time when all of us—in any place, at anytime—can genuinely say to one another: "Peace be with you."

Jerraleen J. Balais, 24, holds a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education, major in Religious Education and School Guidance, from the University of Santo Tomas. She is currently studying for a diploma in Social Work in the College of Social Work and Community Development, UP-Diliman.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

Of lip balms and violence against women

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AN EARTHQUAKE scare that "promised" an intensity 9 tremor by 5 p.m. swept Metro Manila the other day. Fortunately, the disaster did not come, and it didn't frighten off too many people, at least judging by the number of buyers who flocked to The Body Shop store at Greenbelt 4.

This was fortunate because last Thursday was also the day for the launching of The Body Shop "Stop Violence in the Home" campaign, a global crusade of all Body Shop stores that—so their materials proclaim—are in line with two of the company's "core values": "defend human rights" and "activate self-esteem."

In the Philippines, this chain of stores specializing in skin care and cosmetic products, has teamed up with the Women's Crisis Center (WCC), the pioneering service organization that has been providing rescue, shelter and counseling to women and children survivors of violence for over 15 years.

To support the work of the WCC, The Body Shop had pledged to donate all proceeds from Thursday's one-day bazaar sale of selected Body Shop products to the Center. At the same time, the Body Shop has begun selling a special edition "Stop Violence in the Home Mint Lip Care Stick," in distinctive blue-and-white packaging, to raise even more funds for the WCC. For every lip care stick sold, P50 will be donated to the WCC, which will, in turn use the funds for the improvement of its Children's Room at the East Avenue Medical Center.

The Children's Room, as envisioned by the WCC, will serve "as a space where abused children-survivors can freely express their feelings, either through art or play, that will facilitate healing from their experience of abuse." It will also serve as a venue where children could interact with one another "in a non-threatening, non-violent and emotionally supportive environment."

* * *

ASIDE FROM providing the funds for the Children's Room, Body Shop Philippines officers and staff will also provide "hands-on" service, equipping the facility with art and education materials, toys and play equipment, a TV set, a bookshelf—in short, creating "a place for reading and storytelling to integrate creativity, self-expression and fun in their learning and healing journey…and give them the opportunity to enjoy some of the pleasures of normal childhood."

It's no surprise that the local Body Shop franchisee has chosen to go beyond just fund-raising in the course of helping inform and involve the public in the cause of putting an end to violence against women and children. If you will recall, The Body Shop itself began as the brainchild of one woman: Anita Roddick, who has since been named a "Dame" of the British Empire, chose to mix business with social responsibility, making the advocacy of social issues part and parcel of her business plan.

One of the earliest issues to grab Dame Anita's heart was violence against women, and the campaign to "Stop Violence against Women," symbolized by a white daisy inside a crude drawing of a house, has been a long-time advocacy of the chain. Though Roddick has since ceased wielding direct control over the operations of The Body Shop, she remains an influential force and unifying symbol for the global brand.

* * *

DURING DAME Anita's most recent visit late last year, says Vicente M. Muñoz, chair of JVS Worldwide Inc., the local franchisee of The Body Shop, she half-seriously admonished him that unless the local stores launched a high-profile campaign on the issue of violence against women, "I'm not coming back for another visit."

Well, judging from Thursday's launch and the buzz it managed to generate, we can reasonably look forward to another visit from the provocative lady.

Of lasting value, beyond the money to be generated to support the work of the Women's Crisis Center, is The Body Shop's advocacy and information work. With staffers of the WCC, who provided the content, The Body Shop has published a small booklet entitled "Enough!" It contains descriptions of the various forms of violence against women and children; strategies that families, friends, neighbors and even victims themselves can adopt to prevent further abuse; the provisions of the new law against violence against women and their children and the responsibilities of government agencies; and a handy guide with corresponding telephone numbers of NGOs, government bodies and legal organizations that survivors can turn to for rescue, assistance and counseling.

If you want to do more to put an end to all forms of violence against women and children, you can drop by the Women's Crisis Center on the seventh floor of the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City. You can also call 924-9315 for more information. The WCC also provide telephone counseling through the "Lifeline," Tel. Nos. 922-5235 and 926-7744.

* * *

ANOTHER fund-raising event for the WCC is "Romancing Venus," described as "A Night of Women in Love, with Poetry, Art and Music," on Wednesday, April 20 at 7 p.m. at the lobby of the Ayala Museum.

The evening also marks the launching of "Romancing Venus," a CD compilation of poetry and music produced "Kooky" Carren Cecilia Tuason.

"Romancing Venus" features the vocal talents of Barbie Almalbis (of Barbie's Cradle), Monique Jaramillo and Kim Fabros (of Seven Shots), Maegan Aguilar, Iza Calzado, Angel Aquino, Chinggay Andrada, KC Concepcion, Julia Clarete, Cindy Kurleto, Kara David and many other women artists.

Perhaps, this tells us that in the decades that the women's movement has battled to bring the issue of violence against women to public attention, it has moved from anger and denunciation to solidarity and celebration of our collective courage and capacity to rise above even the most trying of circumstances.

Shades of the Opus Dei

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(This is taken from an exchange of e-mails between my son and my daughter. I was going to entertain you with a love story, but I thought you might find this more amusing. After all, it is Saturday and a weekend. I don't know what happened to my little girl but she sure doesn't sound like her mother's daughter.)

BROTHER: Jo, if He [Jesus] wasn't bound by cultural mores, then why didn't He select non-Jews (or even Romans) as apostles?

I think that the syllogism that "original male disciples = only male priests" is a false one. If it was what Jesus intended, why didn't He just say "No chicks allowed?" You would obviously refute the syllogism that "original Jewish disciples = only Jewish priests" but, in fact, it wasn't until Paul that the movement [Christianity] spread beyond the Jews to the gentiles. The question is just this: aside from tradition, how can you justify singling out one common aspect of the original disciples (gender) while ignoring all the others (ethnicity, facial hair, occupation, hair color, height, shoe size, etc.)?

The other evidence you need to consider is the Acts of the Apostles and the Pauline letters. There are many women mentioned in them, [they had] prominent or leading roles. In fact, in Acts 9:32-41, a woman (Tabitha/Dorcas) is specifically identified as a "disciple." Other women in "priest" roles include Lydia (Acts 16:14), Prisca/Priscilla (Acts 18:26 among others), Phoebe ("a deacon of the church"—Romans 16:1) and Nympha ("the church in her house"—Col 4:15). Finally, read the salutations at the end of Paul's letters—I think you will see that he makes no distinctions among the men and women who are serving as apostles or priests.

I can't wait for a remake of "The Thornbirds" with Monica Bellucci in the Richard Chamberlain role… (MOTHER: I think my son's being facetious at this point.)

Speaking of which, why isn't Ms Bellucci in more movies? What the hell is wrong with the casting directors in Hollywood? (MOTHER: They've got Zeta-Jones, that's why.)

DAUGHTER: Ian, you can't argue that when Jesus chose the disciples, he was adhering to the cultural mores of his day because he actually wasn't bound by convention and didn't act so (hence the Jews wanting to get rid of him).

Never taken the Host from a laywoman and am actually dismayed by the presence of altar girls… good grief!… I've sort of come to accept them but it still rankles!!! (MOTHER: Can't believe I'm reading this.)

BROTHER: You are so reactionary, it's funny. Obviously, you haven't thrown off the shackles of the patriarchy yet. Dude, do you only take communion from the priest? If you've ever been served communion by female laity, you've already given up most of your argument against female priests.

Please explain to me, theologically, what the difference is between the host being consecrated by a man and another, by a woman? Other than tradition, there's no rational basis for making that distinction. OK, Jesus and all the disciples were men. But they were also all Jews and all from the same socio-economic class. So, based on tradition, shouldn't only male Jews who are either carpenters, shepherds or fishermen be allowed to say Mass?

Don't worry, it's probably not coming in the next 20 years or so, and I think that they will deal with the priest shortage by first allowing them to marry. There's a whole bunch of Eastern Rite [priests] and converted Anglican priests who are already in that category.

DAUGHTER: "No to chick-priests!!! Conservative Catholics Unite!!!" (MOTHER: That's my daughter again. A traitor to her gender. Incredible!)

BROTHER: "Nobody's perfect. I think that you have to chalk it up to not being able to please everybody all of the time. If he had been less traditional, I'm sure you would have all these ultra-conservative splinter groups breaking away from the Church, a la the Episcopal Church here that's split over the ordination of gays.

I don't know that the next guy will be under that much pressure to soften the stance on the hot-button topics (married or female priests, etc.) but that day is coming, unless the Vatican is OK with the dwindling number of vocations and Catholics in Europe and the USA. Given that it's located in Italy and the wealthiest donors are in the States, it's hard to see that coming to pass.

I'm all for sainthood. Hey, if we could allow St. Quadragesimus and Ysarn, then John Paul II certainly qualifies. Plus, I think some of the Medici popes who voted in their relatives.

St. Quadragesimus

Feastday: October 26, 590

Confessor and a shepherd known for miracles. He lived at Policastro, Italy, and served as a subdeacon. According to Pope Gregory I the Great (a saint), he was responsible for the remarkable achievement of raising a man from the dead.

St. Ysarn

Feastday: September 24, 1048

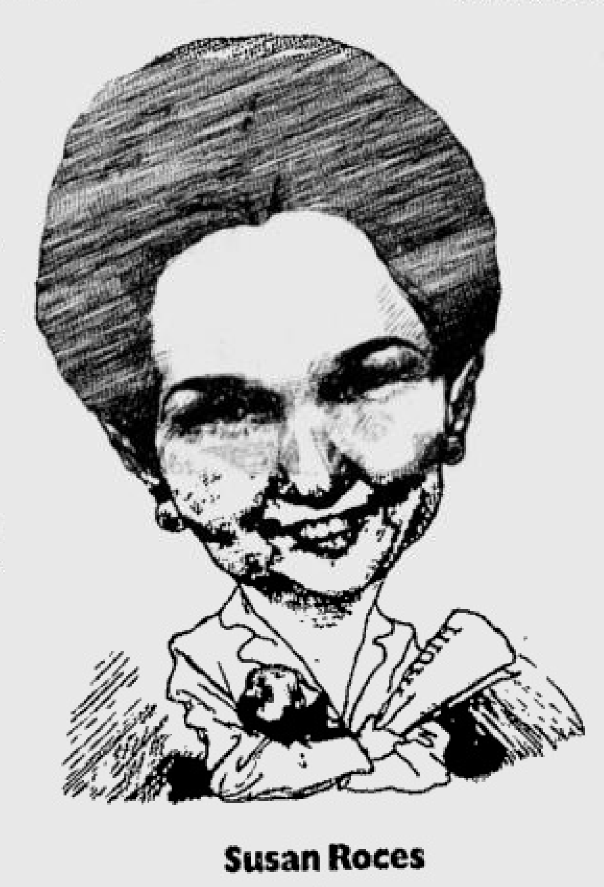
Benedictine abbot. A native of Toulouse, France, he entered the Benedictines, served as a monk, and then was abbot of the monastery of St. Victor's at Marseilles.

(I'm rather impressed with my son, Ian. Even I hadn't heard of St. Quadragesimus and St. Ysarn.) But anyway, there's another brother out there who may or may not have two-cents' worth to add. Wait for the next episode.

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

IN THE NEWS



Susan Roces

Beltless president

THE PRESIDENT was very vociferous in pushing for a VAT increase. She was also quite strident in pushing for the huge 2005 budget. And she asked the Filipino people for patience, even as she urged them to tighten their belts.

But where is her voice when the poor ask for a minimum wage hike? Where are the histrionics when the gas companies pick the people's pocket? Where is that well-known temper when officials of the Government Service Insurance System, National Power Corp., etc. give themselves outlandish salaries?

Has anyone, including the erudite 11 of the University of the Philippines-School of Economics, ever thought of solving the problem from the other end? Why not ask the government to tighten its belt? Get rid of the intelligence funds—we all know what they are—and the pork barrel.

But it is much easier to tax and tax. If the people have no more bread, let them eat cake. Patience my people. Tighten your belts.

My mother always taught me to live within our means. That was the essence of budgeting. If you had P10, do not spend P15 and ask relatives or friends to lend you the other P5, for soon you would owe P50 or even P500. No amount of belt-tightening would ever help you pay for that.

But the President can afford to ask for tightening of our belts, after all she does not wear one!

—ED LOPEZ,
Lot 18, Blk. 6,
Ciudad Grande II,
Baguio City

LETTERS

QC councilors trying to lessen tax burdens

THIS refers to the column of Neal H. Cruz, "Greedy QC councilors." (PDI, 3/18/05)

Please allow us to put things in the proper perspective.

In fairness to Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., he has and always been a staunch anti-squatting advocate. He has tasked the city's 142 barangay captains to "guard" their respective communities against informal settlers, authorizing them to immediately dismantle, at the very start, any illegal structures being put up in their area of jurisdiction.

Secondly, the mayor has directed the Central Police District to assign a representative to sit as a member of the PNP Task Force Anti-Squatting that the Office of the President has created to regulate the proliferation of illegal settlers in Metro Manila.

Thirdly, Mayor Belmonte has directed the city's engineering department and the parks development administration department to transform all the city's idle lands into parks to see to it that these would not be "invaded" by informal settlers.

Besides, in the case of lands occupied by informal settlers, the city government and the police can still be of help in driving them out on the strength of court orders.

Regarding the issue of being the richest city, the story on Quezon City as the country's richest local government was based on a report prepared by the Department of Finance and concurred in by the Commission on Audit.

And in fairness to our councilors, they have enacted several measures designed to lessen the tax burden of QC real property owners. Among these measures is the 20-percent discount on real property taxes, given as incentive to those who pay their tax obligations on time.

The council members have also passed a measure exempting businessmen, who declare an additional 30-percent tax base for the taxable year and pay their business taxes accordingly, from inspection (by the city government) of their business records, books and other similar documents.

—GREGORIO T. BAÑACIA,
chief, Public Affairs
and Information Services Office,
3/F Legislative Wing, Quezon City Hall

Careless senator

I WOULD like to correct an error of fact in the news item, "Palace: VAT bill will pass" (PDI, 3/28/05) which reported Sen. Joker Arroyo's lament that the 11 UP economics professors were invited to express their views but "only one showed up." The senator then proceeded to say that "the 11 UP economics professors sent Prof. Emmanuel de Dios to one session and he gave a brief perfunctory testimony which precluded interpellation."

Senate records will bear me out: I have never yet attended a hearing of the ways and means committee on the VAT issue. Therefore, I could not have possibly delivered the performance—"perfunctory" or otherwise—that Arroyo attributed to me. If Arroyo now thinks one of the members of our group showed up at the VAT hearing, well and good—but it was not me.

Be that as it may, I am convinced this error of Arroyo was a result of a memory lapse rather than a deliberate attempt on his part to misrepresent. Whichever the case, I hope that Arroyo would exercise more care with his legislation than he does with his facts.

—EMMANUEL S. DE DIOS,
University of the Philippines
School of Economics,
Diliman, Quezon City

National shame and self-respect

FOR any country, all things begin with a sense of security and justice. A violation of this sense of security and justice—such as when an innocent journalist is slain for the "crime" of telling the truth, and the killer escapes punishment—every compatriot, man, woman or child, also suffers as a victim, in the sense that the murder not only leaves a threatening specter in its wake but also shames him or her as a member of a community.

We can feel that shame still resonates with people from the provinces, in the admonition of mothers to their kids about the importance of keeping a good reputation and "face" in their communities. But somehow, this old-fashioned value has been lost in the modern Filipino city, where "anything goes for a buck," even if immoral, has become the paramount consideration.

Even the "Japayuki" phenomenon—young girls lured into "entertainer" jobs to be molested as bar girls by drunken Japanese businessmen—doesn't bother our political leaders, whose only concern seems to be how to keep the supply of them moving to Japan, where they can earn bar-girl money and send it back to their families. How low must a country go?

A brave woman-journalist, who had the courage to expose the venalities of a mayor and a police chief, is shot dead inside her home, in front of her children and there's not a tinge of national shame. One who doesn't feel shame loses his or her right to be treated as a human being. In a larger sense, a nation without shame doesn't deserve respect.

Filipinos, but especially our political leaders, as well as our military and police officers, must draw from that ancient sense of shame that once helped shape the morality of village life.

We have to keep the spirit of the martyred Jose Rizal alive. Let us steel our hearts and stand fearless in our pursuit of a better Philippines, in our fight against the criminals and the corrupt, because if they win, all good people lose, not just those who fall by the barrel of their guns.

—DANIEL STAFFORD,
dstafford@hedgelender.com

ATENEO LANGUAGE LEARNING CENTER

Offers

The ALLC Summer Program for English Enhancement (ASPEE)

Introduction to College English (ICE)
May 2-13 / 9:00 AM -11:30 AM
Intended to make college English "painless" and absorbing for the incoming freshman, this course takes up useful tools and strategies to improve English language skills in the college classroom.

English for Frontliners (EFF)
May 7, 14, 21, 28 / 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
EFF provides office frontline staff such as bank tellers, receptionists, secretaries and other staff with training and practice in English oral communication useful in facilitating positive business relations.

English Communication Skills' Improvement (ECSI)
May 2-13 / 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
This course is a general refresher of English communication skills to boost the confidence of the recent graduate or the long-ago graduate from college in using the language clearly, correctly and appropriately whether orally or in writing.

Professional Oral Communication in the Workplace (POCW)
May 21 & 28 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Intended for mid-level executives, POCW develops participants' level of confidence in professional situations that call for oral English through efficient and skillful use of techniques and strategies for group discussions and oral presentations.

Writing Effectively in Business Communication (WebCom) - ongoing
April 9, 16, 23, 30 / 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
This course provides executives who deal with correspondence and reports in and outside of the workplace with interactive, task-based and learner-centered opportunities to develop and enhance writing skills for professional communication.

For inquiries, visit the ALLC in Alingal Hall, Ateneo de Manila, Loyola Heights or call 426-5662 / 426-6001 local 4042 or email allc@admu.edu.ph

Limited slots per program for productive interaction in the courses. Reservations accepted until April 28, 2005.

What is legal is not always moral

I BELIEVE the case of Terri Schiavo will be debated for a long time. It was argued that it was more dignified for Terri to die than to continue living in such an undignified life (vegetative state).

The first argument against euthanasia falls under the principle that ending the life of a person is not our right. Life is not ours. It's God's. It is only God who determines when life should end. We are only custodians of life. And we must defend and nourish it by whatever means necessary.

Terri's life was ended by withdrawing nourishment and hydration, and therefore starving her to death.

A crucial distinction has to be made: Was the use of a feeding tube to keep her alive "ordinary" or "extraordinary" means? Catholic moral teachings tell us that "ordinary means" are those that are used in a given circumstance with the hope of proportionate benefit (giving hydration to a patient who still has consciousness of hunger and thirst); "extraordinary means" are those that are not commonly used in given circumstances and do not give definite hope of proportionate benefit (continuing to give hydration to a patient who is already brain dead—not comatose—and has totally lost consciousness of hunger and thirst).

In the case of Terri, she was still able to communicate with her eyes, to smile, even more so, to feel hunger and thirst. If she was brain dead and totally cut-off from the world, withdrawal of food and water could have been justified. But she was not. Therefore, withdrawal of her nourishment was morally wrong.

As to the claim of her husband, Michael, that he remembered Terri saying she did not want to be kept alive in that condition is, at the very most, a subjective statement. It cannot be verified in the absence of a written statement of the patient. But even if it were true, it would not have been right for any human being to end another person's life. Even if the courts sided with Michael and he had the legal right to claim such permission from the courts, his decision went against morality. What is legal is not always moral.

Michael and those with the same mentality betray a mind that misses the intimate connection between the temporal and divine realities. In a distorted sense, they think people have the freedom to die in a way that suits them to escape from burden and responsibility. Such thinking manifests what John Paul II called as the "culture of death."

Depriving Terri Schiavo of hydration and nutrition, thus causing her death, was absolutely an inhuman act and morally wrong. It defied the inviolability of human life and violated human dignity.

—FR. JAY-AR BABOR, MSC,
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart,
108, 4th St. New Manila, Quezon City,
E-mail: jayarmsc@cfa-media.com.ph

Population control in order, problem is gov't

THIS is in reference to the March 15 column of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan.

Citing figures from economics professor Bernardo Villegas, the Philippines' population density is 255 per square kilometer.

But based on present data, our estimated present population of 88 million will give us a population density of 1,000 persons per square miles. We have a land are of 112,000 square miles. This population density is quite tragic for the Philippines, which is among the poorest countries in the world.

Japan's population is steady at 126 million. Its land area is 280,000 square miles. Its population density is only 450 persons per square miles and it does not put heavy pressure on the lives of the people. Japan's land area can be compared to the size of the state of California. But Japan is the second biggest economy in the world, after the United States.

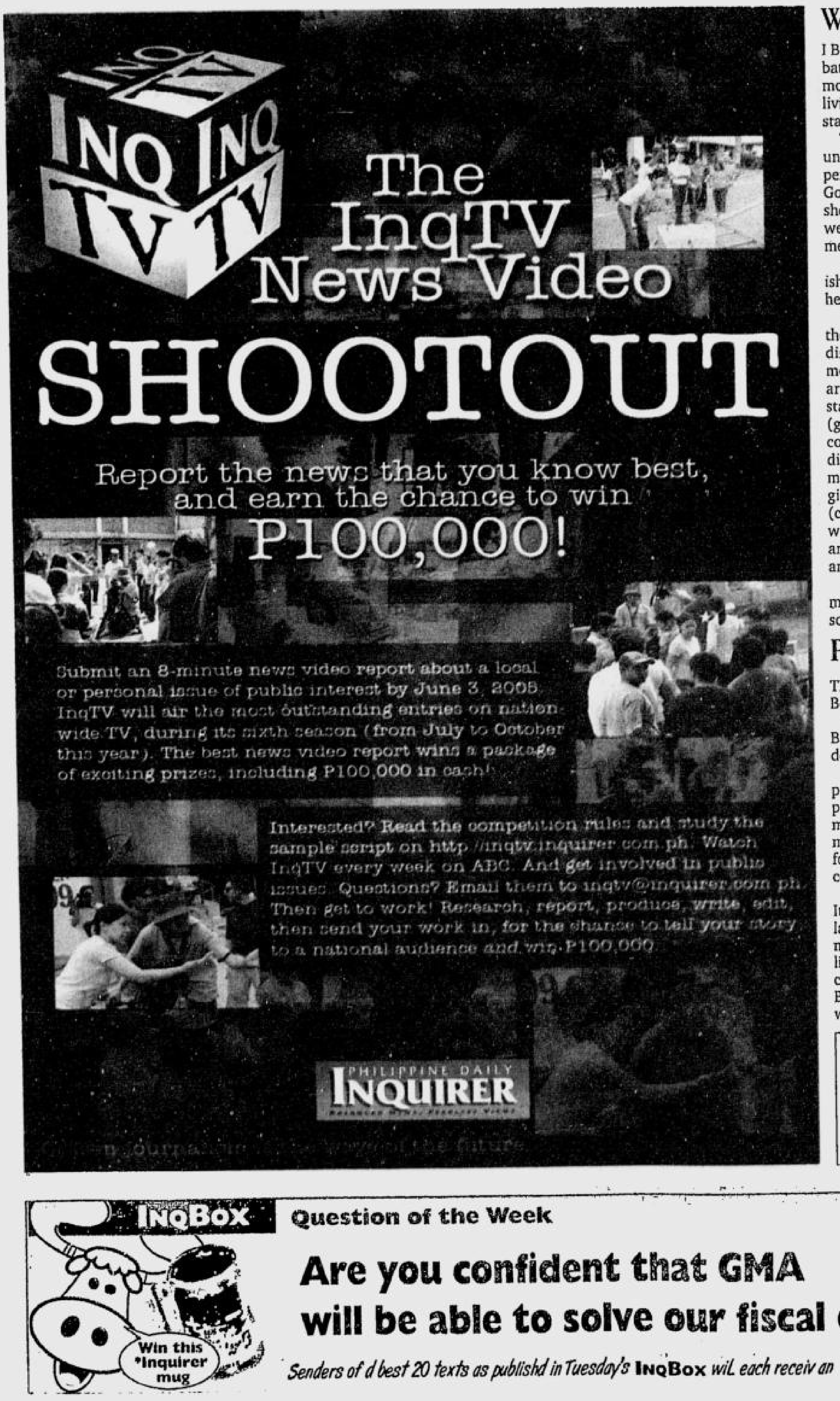
I agree with Cunanan that population is not the main cause of our economic difficulties. Poverty is. But since our economy remains underdeveloped, curbing our population growth is quite in order.

But the biggest problem that has been facing this country from the start of Marcos' "reign" in 1965 up to this day is Congress (and the other branches of government). I am so disgusted that we, Filipinos, did not eliminate all the known crooks in this country. We could have lived in peace and prosperity by now. To cite a case in point, not one of the Marcoses or any of their cronies has been sent to jail. Former first lady Imelda R. Marcos and congresswoman Imee R. Marcos have the temerity to proclaim to the world that not one of them has any ill-gotten wealth.

—AGUSTIN C. ARNAIZ SR.,
Maasin City, Southern Leyte

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.


INQ INQ TV TV
The InqTV News Video
SHOOTOUT
Report the news that you know best, and earn the chance to win P100,000!
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Submit an 8-minute news video report about a local or personal issue of public interest by June 3, 2005. InqTV will air the most outstanding entries on nationwide TV, during its sixth season (from July to October this year). The best news video report wins a package of exciting prizes, including P100,000 in cash!

Interested? Read the competition rules and study the sample script on http://inqtv.inquirer.com.ph. Watch InqTV every week on ABC. And get involved in public issues. Questions? Email them to inqtv@inquirer.com.ph. Then get to work! Research, report, produce, write, edit, then send your work in, for the chance to tell your story to a national audience and win P100,000.

Win this *Inquirer mug

INQBox Question of the Week

Are you confident that GMA will be able to solve our fiscal crisis?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBox** *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug!*

Key in inquirer box name/age/city/message
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
(Maximum of 160 characters)
Metro Manila winners can call Jang at 8976808.
Provincial winners can text: inquirer ad name/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

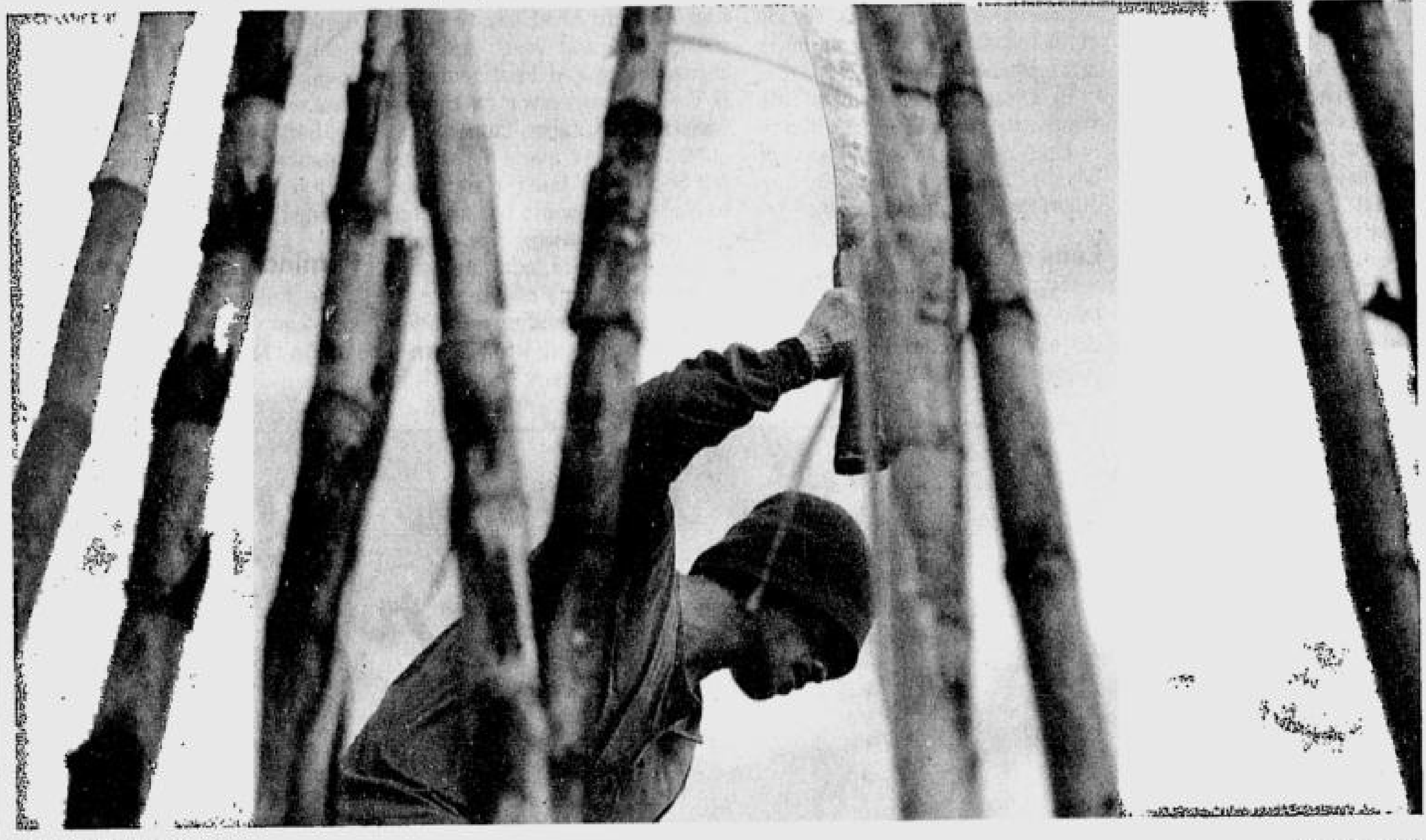
Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:
inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

E. Visayas jobless rate seen rising



MITCH MAURICIO

WORKING MAN
A farmer in Calatagan, Batangas, hacks at sugarcane stalks piled up in a hauling truck to make room for more. The farmer is employed as a sacada or seasonal worker.

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Labor and Employment in Eastern Visayas has projected an increase in the unemployment rate in the region with the influx of new graduates amid shrinking job opportunities in the Leyte and Samar provinces.

Based on the records of the region's Commission on Higher Education (CHEd-8), about 17,000 new college graduates would be looking for jobs in the region already facing a 9.3 percent unemployment rate based on a labor survey as of October 2004.

Crispin Dannug, labor assistant regional director, said that without much job opportunities available in the region, new graduates would have difficulty landing jobs.

"There is not much job opportunities in the region. That is why, many of our graduates try their luck outside the region where they can possibly find employment," he told the INQUIRER.

Salvador Flores, supervising education program specialist of the regional CHEd, said he felt bad that many of the region's graduates would find themselves jobless.

"This is a sad reality that we have to contend with nowadays. We have thousands of graduates with very limited job opportunities, if there is at all an opportunity," Flores said.

He, however, could not provide any data as to how many graduates in the region found jobs. He said his office has yet to conduct such a survey.

Dannug said the most common source of employment in the region is in the retail sector, to include those in the food services. But still, this sector, he added, could not absorb these graduates.

In this light, Dannug said that they have devised some scheme to help job-hunting graduates. For one, he said, the labor department has strengthened its coordination with the local government units in the region through their respective Personnel Employment Service Office (Peso).

Under this scheme, Dannug explained, an applicant can have his name listed or stored at the "data bank" of the Peso of his town or city. This will help the LGU help an applicant find a job by matching his skills with an entity that needs workers, he said.

He said that, through this setup, the local government could serve as a "referral" unit by both the person seeking employment and by a business establishment or agency looking for employees.

Dannug added that the Regional Development Council (RDC)-Eastern Visayas has also passed a resolution urging all LGUs in the region to have their lists of names of who could be hired for employment within their respective localities.

Palawan gov says he consulted execs on projects

PALAWAN Gov. Joel Reyes consulted provincial and elected officials, all municipal mayors including the congressional district representatives of Palawan—Representatives Abraham Mitra and Antonio Alvarez—in the preparation of the list of projects for funding out of the Malampaya proceeds.

In a press statement, Reyes said he consulted the officials prior to submission of the list to the Department of Energy.

The governor issued the statement in the midst of allegations of Mitra that he was not consulted.

Reyes said he discussed the agreement over the shares and its provision in a series of meetings with the different political leaders and local government officials.

"The governor wanted to expedite the preparation of the project listings and he encouraged the local officials, as well as the congressional representatives, to submit their priority projects...," his statement said.

"They were all told to submit their priority projects...," the statement added.

"So we were all surprised with the comment of congressman Mitra," the statement said.

When Mitra first lashed out at Governor Reyes late last week on local radio for allegedly breaking a promise that he would present to him and Representative Alvarez the copy of the project listings prior to submission to the Department of Energy.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn was quoted as saying there was no such agreement. Mayor Hagedorn, who was present in the meeting with Governor Reyes and the two Palawan congressmen, said the governor just asked them to submit their priority projects for submission to the DOE.

There was no agreement that Governor Reyes would first present the list of projects to them before submitting these to the DOE.

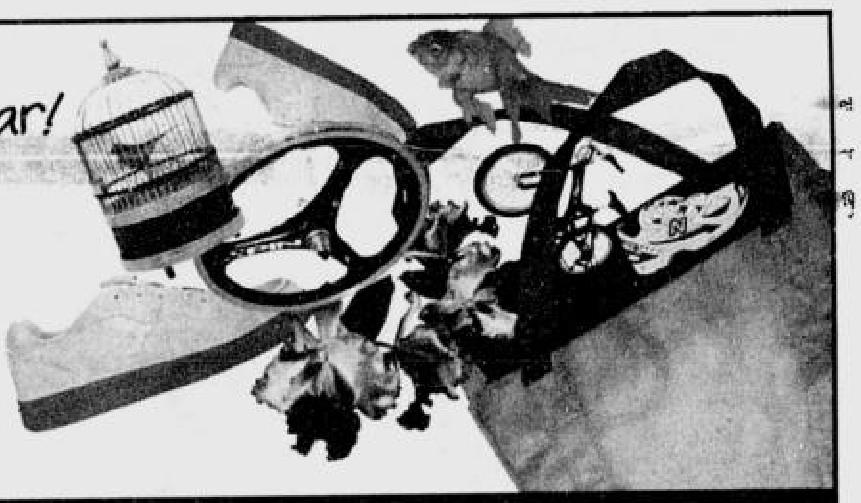
Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon, in a separate interview on radio, said based on the provisions of the law on natural wealth, the funds derived from Malampaya are purely for local use.

"So under normal conditions, the use of funds derived from the natural wealth is a prerogative of the local officials," said Reyes' statement.

However, Governor Reyes, in consultation with the department heads and other provincial officials, provided for congressional allocation amounting to P100 million worth of projects.

But these have to come from the Annual Investment Plan (AIP), a product of the Provincial Development Council whose members include all political leaders, different sectoral groups and the business and private sector.

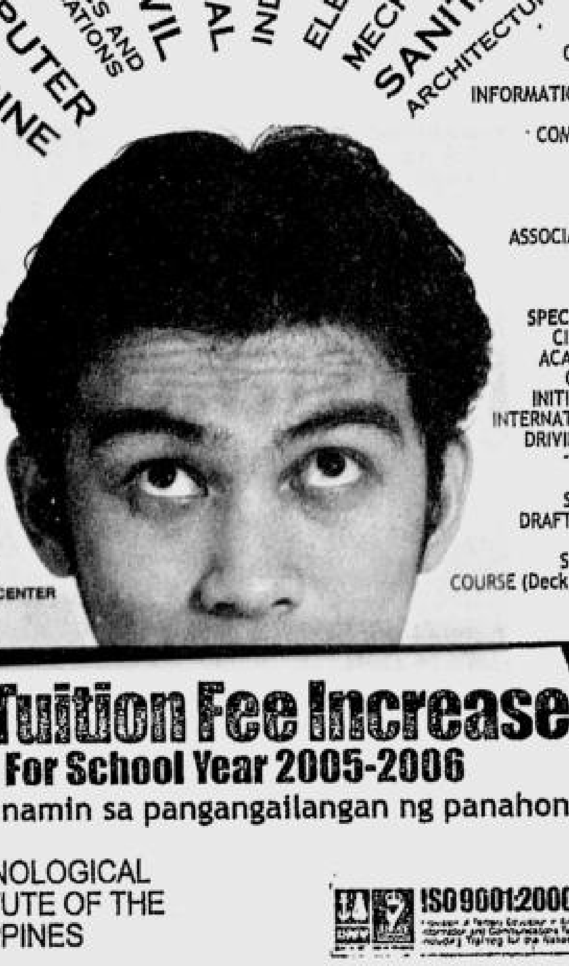
The AIP consists of projects that will benefit the 23 municipalities and the city of Puerto Princesa which are part and parcel of the first and second congressional districts. This means that the districts of Representatives Mitra and Alvarez will benefit from the Malampaya proceeds, said the statement. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



Shop at Cartimar!
It's all here!
over 55 pet shops
15 bike shops
over 60 shoe shops
over 11 plant & orchid gardens

All the items you love,
At prices you'll love more!
Your search ends right here!

cartimar
THE INTERNATIONAL SHOPPING CENTER
TAFT AVENUE, PASAY CITY



PANG ENGINEERING BA ANG GALING MO?

FIRST SEMESTER SY 2005-2006
CLASSES BEGIN JUNE 13

MARINE
COMPUTER
ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATIONS
CIVIL
CHEMICAL
INDUSTRIAL
ELECTRICAL
MECHANICAL
SANITARY
ARCHITECTURE

OTHER PROGRAMS
BUSINESS EDUCATION
ACCOUNTANCY (Manila Campus) / COMMERCE, MAJOR IN LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT / Management / Computer Management (Manila) / Entrepreneurship / Marketing / Financial and Management Accounting

MARITIME EDUCATION
MARINE ENGINEERING (QC, Manila)
MARINE TRANSPORTATION (Manila)

MANILA CAMPUSES
363 P. Casal St., Quiapo, Manila
Tels. 733-9117 / 736-4208
1338 Arlegui St., Quiapo, Manila
QUEZON CITY CAMPUS
938 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City
Tels. 911-0140 / 912-1539
TIP SEASIDE MARITIME TRAINING CENTER
Brgy. San Rafael III, Noveleta, Cavite
www.tip.edu.ph

OTHER PROGRAMS
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
COMPUTER SCIENCE / INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY / INFORMATION MANAGEMENT / ASSOCIATE IN COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY (2 Years)

SPECIAL IT PROGRAMS
CISCO NETWORKING ACADEMY PROGRAM / ORACLE ACADEMIC INITIATIVE PROGRAM / INTERNATIONAL COMPUTER DRIVING LICENSE (ICDL) PROGRAM

SHORT PROGRAMS
DRAFTING TECHNOLOGY (1 Year)
SEAFARER'S RATING COURSE (Deck, Engine, Steward)

Enroll now!
No Tuition Fee Increase
For School Year 2005-2006
Tugon namin sa pangangailangan ng panahon

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED
In constant redefinition of academic life

Enjoy urban living in a whole new perspective.

Glenrose
NORTH
VALENZUELA CITY

Situated at Valenzuela City's most progressive hub, Glenrose North boasts of a prime location that's virtually accessible from any direction. Here, the city's adrenaline rush merges with the tranquility of a rural lifestyle. Groove to the city vibe and drive to the serenity of your home in just minutes. At Glenrose North, we promise you'll never look at city life the same way again.

DEVELOPER
STA. LUCIA
Realty & Development, Inc.
EXCLUSIVE MARKETING NETWORK
ROYALE HOMES
MARKETING CORPORATION
www.royalehomes.com.ph

CONTACT US:
(02) 723-4014 / 724-7107 / 726-4205
Text us your inquiries:
glenrosenorth_(your name)_cell no. and send to 2960

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

A Death March survivor narrates his tale

By Vicente S. Labro
Tanauan, Leyte

A PHOTOGRAPH and a complete set of false teeth never fail to bring back grim memories to a World War II veteran in Leyte about the Fall of Bataan and the infamous long march to the concentration camp.

Rosendo E. Musca, 86, a retired sergeant of the Philippine Scout, Army of the United States, treasures an old photograph showing him and his comrades in formation shortly after they surrendered on April 9, 1942 in Bataan to the Japanese Imperial Army.

It reminded him of the start of the most dreadful four days of his life and how he miraculously survived.

Musca says the picture was taken by a Japanese major who gave him the film's negative just before they started their long trek, the infamous Death March.

The Japanese photographer knew him because before the war broke out, the foreigner owned a photo studio in Tacloban, Leyte. Musca and some of his fellow students used to hang out in that studio. They never knew the name of the Japanese, but they called him Mr. Usa because his photo shop was named "USA Studio."

They used to share with the Japanese their snacks as they chatted with him. The Japanese could only speak in halting English and a few words in Waray.

"He secretly gave me a [single] negative of a film," said Musca, referring to his meeting in Bataan with his acquaintance who was then already in full military uniform as an officer in the Japanese Imperial Army.

In a low voice and in halting Waray, the Japanese told Musca to keep the negative and to wait because he would later get him out of the difficult situation.

Long march

"We did not see each other anymore; I don't know if he survived the war," the veteran said. "But I believed he was going to help me."

Musca, who was a corporal of the Philippine Scout, recalled that for four days, they had hiked without shelter, food and water, and their captors had treated them inhumanely. Their destination was the concentration camp in Capas, Tarlac.

"On our way, many died. They fell because of hunger and were bayoneted (to death by Japanese soldiers). We were physically abused," he recalled. "We were treated like animals."

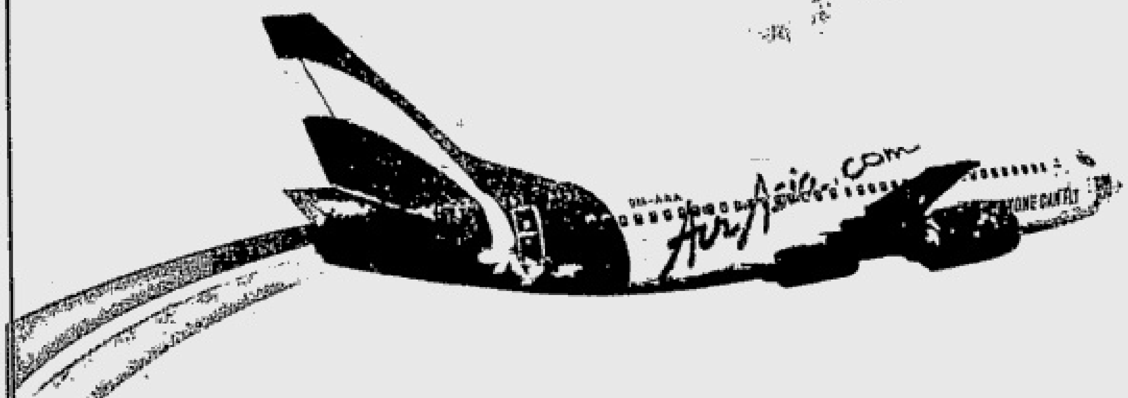
But what he would never forget in that infamous march was when they passed a town where he saw clean water dripping from a faucet near the road. They had been used to drinking dirty water from streams.

Musca took the chance. He sneaked to the tap, filled his canteen with water, and sipped. But he had been seen. Suddenly, a Japanese soldier swung his rifle butt at the canteen as he was savoring the cool water.

Reminder

He fell with a bloodied face and lost all his teeth. "This, I couldn't forget," he said.

A DEATH/ A19



AirAsia

With AirAsia, Now Everyone Can Fly

Come fly with the award-winning airline!

- **Market Leadership Award 2005** *by Air Transport World (ATW)*
- **Asia Pacific Low Cost Airline of the Year 2004** *by Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA)*

Clark to

Kuala Lumpur from P 1,949 one way

Daily flights begin 5 April 2005

Kota Kinabalu from P 909 one way

Daily flights begin 5 April 2005

AirAsia Flight Schedule

Flight No	Route	Departure	Arrival	Days
AK32	KUL-CRK	07:20	11:15	Daily
AK33	CRK-KUL	16:30	20:25	Daily
AK502	BKI-CRK	14:05	16:05	Daily
AK503	CRK-BKI	11:40	13:40	Daily

Getting to Clark International Airport (Shuttle Bus Timetable)

Clark Airport - SM Megamall, Ortigas		SM Megamall, Ortigas - Clark Airport	
Pick up	Drop Off	Pick up	Drop Off
12:30	14:30	07:00	09:30
17:30	19:30	12:00	14:00

- Shuttle bus service costs 300 pesos / USD5.55 one way
- Bus ticket can be purchased from the bus operator at Philtranco Terminal, SM Megamall Building, Ortigas, Mandaluyong City or at the Arrival Hall of Clark International Airport
- Bus ride: 2 hours from Clark International Airport to Manila.
- Log on to www.airasia.com for more info

Buy Online
www.airasia.com

BOOK NOW!
Travel Period: Until 29 October 2005

Travel Agents

Adventure Int Tours Inc 632 524 8681	**Frontline Travel Incorporated** 632 851 4631/32/33	**The Blue Voyage** 63 45 961 5339	**Travel Team** 632 5360014	**YoYo Holidays** 632 302 0717
Philippine Travel Bureau Inc 632 843 8422/29	**Wintrex Travel Corporation** 632 426 4492	**Queensport Travel & Tours** 632 752 7551/52	**Rajah Travel Corporation** 632 523 8801	

Seats are limited and may not be available on all flights. Flights and fares are subject to availability, exclude airport taxes and fees. Terms and conditions apply.

Boracay power supply seen to become stable

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORACAY ISLAND—Boracay Island's power supply got a much needed boost with the construction of a new power plant and the upgrading of transmission lines to the island.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was in Boracay to preside over the ceremonial switching on of a 7.5-megawatt diesel-fired power plant in Nabas town, around 60 km northwest of the capital town of Kalibo.

The P440-million project, aimed at boosting the unstable power supply of the country's premier tourist destination, is part of a P600-million investment in the province by Mirant Global, a joint venture of Mirant Philippines and the Metrobank Group subsidiary Global Business Holdings.

The plant, to be operational in three months, will supply the Aklan Electric Cooperative (Akelco) through a 23-km cable from Nabas to Caticlan and a 1.5-km submarine cable to Boracay. Akelco provides electricity to Aklan's 17 towns and two towns of Antique.

Unreliable

The current power peak demand of the island reaches 6 to 8 megawatts daily. But power supply has remained unstable in Boracay because it is at the tail end of the Visayas power grid, which gets its supply from geothermal plants in Leyte.

Boracay residents and more than 200 owners of resorts, hotels and restaurants have complained of daily brownouts, low voltage and power fluctuations.

Most resorts here have generator sets because of unreliable power supply.

Ms Arroyo said that with the installation of the plant, brownouts on the island will be a "thing of the past."

Mirant Global president Edgardo Bautista said the increase in power supply would benefit around 3,000 households on the island.

New lines

The power supply to the island will also be boosted by the construction of a 69-kv transmission line from Caticlan to Boracay, Allan Ortiz, president of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco), told the INQUIRER.

Ortiz said the P149 million project was recently approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission and will be completed by December this year.

A group of business operators on the island welcomed the putting up of the plant but raised apprehensions that it will increase power rates.

Pocholo Morillo, chair of the energy committee of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), said Mirant Global should use the existing 13.8-kv transmission line and the new one to be installed by Transco instead of constructing its own transmission line because the additional cost could be passed on to consumers.

But Ortiz said it would be up to the ERC to set the electricity rates on the island.

Ms Arroyo said the power plant is part of the government's efforts to ensure the sustainable development of Boracay.

Leaps and bounds

She said the island does need to attract tourists because "tourism is growing by leaps and bounds."

The President was scheduled to convene the Boracay Eminent Persons Group (EPG) last night to discuss policy recommendations on sustaining the island's development.

Ms Arroyo named businessmen Enrique Zobel and Fred Elizalde, Sen. Richard Gordon and Orlando Sacay, BFI vice president for external affairs, as members of the group.

LONELY STRETCH
A tricycle makes its way through an undeveloped road in Barangay Poblacion in Calatagan, Batangas that leads to a sugar plantation. RAFFY LERMA

Comelec sets polls to fill up vacancy left by Durano

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Commission on Elections has finally set special elections in Cebu's fifth district to fill up the vacancy left by former congressman and now Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

The Comelec en banc promulgated Resolution No. 7467, setting May 30, 2005 as the date of the special elections in the fifth district is composed of a city and 10 towns.

The poll body also handed down Resolution No. 7468, which scheduled the calendar of activities for the special elections.

The two resolutions, which was promulgated on Tuesday, were signed by Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos and the six commissioners —Rufino Javier, Meholk Sadain, Resurreccion Borra, Florentino Tuason Jr., Virgilio Garcillano and Manuel Barcelona Jr.

The fifth district has been without representation in Congress since November last year when Durano became tourism secretary.

His elder brother, Ramon "Red" Durano VI, was reportedly being goaded by political leaders as his replacement in Congress, said his aunt, board member Agnes Magpale of the fifth district.

Their father, Danao City Mayor Ramon Nito Durano III, was reportedly supporting Red's bid, said Magpale. Ramon Nito had served the district for three terms.

The opposition camp, led by former Danao Mayor Jesus "Don" Durano, Ramon Nito's estranged elder brother, has yet to meet to decide if they will field a candidate.

But talks in the fifth district indicate that Don might run against his nephew in the congressional race. If not, the opposition might field Carmen Municipal Councilor Mark Gerard Villamor, son of Carmen Mayor Virginio Villlamor.

In Comelec Resolution No. 7467, the poll body said special elections should be held because the term of office vacated by Durano has more than a year left before it expires in July 2006.

The poll body said the candidates could file their certificate of candidacy from April 22 to 28. The campaign period starts on April 29 and ends on May 28, two days before the holding of the special elections.

The election period will start on April 20 to June 9. The gun ban during this period will be strictly enforced in the district.

The Comelec also banned raising of funds for an election campaign through dances, lotteries and cockfights from April 20 to May 30.

A Death March survivor narrates his tale

From page A18

He acquired a set of false teeth after the Liberation in October 1944 and continues to use it up to this time—a reminder of that day, Musca said.

Musca could not also forget his "homecoming" in Tanauan from Manila in August 1943. When he arrived home, many people were there. It turned out that his mother, relatives and friends were celebrating the 40th day of the novena for his "death."

Everybody was shocked to see him standing at the doorway. Then his mother and relatives started to cry "tears of joy," he recalled.

His mother explained to him that a Bataan survivor had told her that Musca was among those who surrendered and that he had probably died during the Death March.

Musca was born on March 1, 1919 in Tanauan. He married Pomposa de Veyra in 1946, with whom he has nine children—five daughters and four sons. He now has 15 grandchildren.

Houseboy-turned-soldier

Sixty-six years ago, Musca left his widowed mother in search of a better life in Manila. He had just finished third year high school at the Tacloban Catholic School.

He was able to find a job as a houseboy of a German businessman and his English wife. While working, he continued his studies and finished high school at the Intramuros High School. He took up a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Education course, major in Drafting, at the Philippine School of Arts and Trade.

With the war imminent, Musca's employers had to leave for fear of their safety.

Musca decided to become a soldier. On Feb. 8, 1941, he and three of his friends enlisted with the Philippine Scout at Camp McKinley.

Musca was assigned to medical company headquarters. In May 1941, he was transferred to the 31st Infantry. Only nine other Filipinos were in the unit.

Line of defense

"When war broke out [on Dec. 8, 1941] I was assigned to apprehend Japanese nationals residing in Manila, like those (working in or operating) barber shops, restaurants, massage centers, candy factories and Mori bicycle stores," he said. He was then with the infantry's Military Police.

At midnight on Dec. 31, 1942, Musca said they were sent to Corregidor and Bataan for the defense of the country against the Japanese invaders. On their way, Japanese Zero planes bombed the ships, hitting some of them.

Musca said his unit stayed in Corregidor for about two weeks and moved to Bataan until the formal declaration of surrender on April 9, 1942. "We ran out of food and ammunition," he said.

The unit, headed by a Major North, was stationed along Trail 37 in Bataan. It was here on that fateful day that he met the Japanese photographer.

Musca hid the film negative given to him between the pages of a diary that he kept.

"I believed that when he was in Tacloban he was a spy," he said of his Japanese friend.

Musca and the other surrenderees were imprisoned in Capas. In July 1942, his health worsened. Though his swollen gums already healed, his feet swelled due to beriberi. He was also suffering from dysentery and nose bleeding.

Freedom fighter

On Aug. 29, 1942, Musca was released from the concentration camp, but he could no walk. His comrades had to carry him by stretcher to the train station and brought directly to the San Lazaro Hospital. He had ticks and smelled awful, he said.

Musca was discharged from the hospital in the third week of October 1942. He stayed with his brother in Intramuros and had to regularly report to Japanese headquarters.

On Nov. 16, 1942, Musca again got ill and was brought back to the hospital. He only received first aid treatment as the hospital was then full of patients.

A private doctor treated him of malaria, beriberi, dysentery and cardiovascular diseases from November 1942 up to March 8, 1943. When he got well, he joined the guerrilla movement in Manila led by an American colonel.

When their leader was captured and killed by the Japanese, Musca decided to go home to Leyte.

"We traveled by *paraw* (native cargo boat) for four to five days, but only at night for fear that we might get caught by the Japanese. When we arrived in Tacloban, we were inspected and I told the Japanese I was a student coming from Manila," Musca recalled.

Back to war

The officer did not believe him and slapped him. Luckily, a member of the Philippine Constabulary from Barugo town intervened, telling the Japanese that Musca could be telling the truth.

He took a *tartanilla* (horse-drawn carriage) to Tanauan, more than 20 km away.

In his hometown, Musca took precautions by sleeping in different houses, fearing the Japanese might discover that he was a member of the Philippine Scout.

He joined the local guerrillas led by Lt. Pablo Cinco. He could only contribute little to the group because he was still weak and not fit to fight.

On Oct. 17, 1944, when many ships of the Allied Liberation Forces were sighted on the horizon of Leyte Gulf, Musca, together with Sgt. Francisco Gamba and T/Sgt. Alfonso Redoña, (both Scout members), and Army Pvt. Jesus de Veyra paddled a native boat toward the ships.

They were instead met by a speedboat and made to board one of the ships. He and the other Scouts were later issued uniforms after they checked a roster of units in the Philippines.

For three days, they sketched the Japanese positions in Tanauan and nearby places as targets of shelling.

Musca retired from military service after the war and has been receiving pension. He taught drafting and military science at the Leyte Institute University (now the Eastern Visayas State University) from 1950 to 1979.

He is now one of the few living survivors of the Fall of Bataan and the Death March.

On a wall in his sala hangs a laminated enlarged photo of him and his comrades in formation shortly after the Fall of Bataan.

Shortly after the liberation of Leyte, he was able to have the film negative in his diary processed, he said.

But among his treasured mementos are photographs of the landing of the Allied Liberation Forces on the shore of Leyte in October 1944.

ANG RABIS MABANGIS

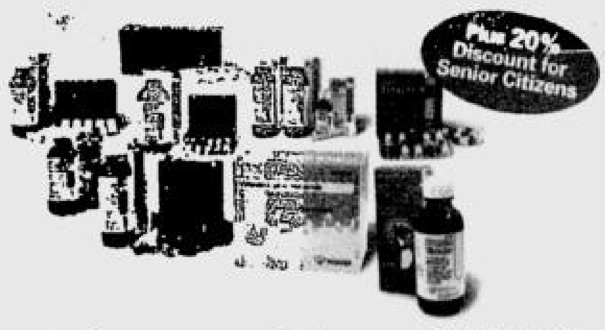
Iwasang mamatay sa rabis. Kapag nakagat ng aso o pusa, tumawag agad sa ABC Emergency Hotline 816-1111 o magtungo agad sa Animal Bite Center.

ABC Animal Bite Center
EMERGENCY HOTLINE
816-1111

DepED Aventis Pasteur sanofi aventis

"Sa hirap ng buhay ngayon, buti na lang merong gamot na may puso."
Mel Tiangco

PHAREX Ang galing sa katawan. Ang galing ng presyo.



Talagang magaan sa bulsa ang PHAREX!

Generic Name	PHAREX Price	Ibang Brand	SAVE!
Analgesics/Anti-Pyretic			
PHAREX Paracetamol 500 mg cap	₱ 1.10	₱ 2.75	₱ 1.65
PHAREX Paracetamol 250 mg/5ml syrup 60 ml	41.00	105.00	64.00
Vitamins			
PHAREX Vit. B1+B6+B12 tab	2.40	6.75	4.35
New! PHAREX Vitamin Syrup for Kids 60 ml bottle	44.25	70.00	25.75
New! PHAREX Vitamins + Minerals tab	3.68	8.50	4.82
Anti-Cholesterol			
New! PHAREX Simvastatin			
10 mg tab	13.50	19.75	6.25
20 mg tab	20.25	28.50	8.25
40 mg tab	27.00	34.50	7.50
Anti-Diabetic			
New! PHAREX Metformin 500 mg tab	3.25	9.50	6.25

Also available: *ANTIBIOTIC* PHAREX Amoxicillin, Cefalexin, Ciprofloxacin, Cloxacillin, Cotrimoxazole, Erythromycin, Cefaclor, Chloramphenicol, Norfloxacin, Ofloxacin • *AMOEBICIDE* PHAREX Metronidazole • *ANTI-TB* PHAREX Ethambutol, Isoniazid, Pyrazinamide, Rifampicin • *ANTI-ASTHMA* PHAREX Salbutamol • *ANTI-EMETIC* PHAREX Metoclopramide • *COUGH & COLD PREPARATION* PHAREX Bromhexine, Carbocisteine, Guaifenesin • *ANTI-ULCERANT* PHAREX Ranitidine • *ANTI-INFLAMMATORY/ANTI-ALLERGY* PHAREX Hydrocortisone • *ANALGESICS/ANTI-PYRETIC* PHAREX Mefenamic

Available at mercury drug

PHAREX Medicines
Presyong Tapat. Alagang Sapat.

Para laging magaling!

PNP 'recycled' order: Crack down on loose guns

From page A1

firearms has grown.

As of the end of 2004, there were 149,501 unregistered firearms nationwide, with the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao accounting for 50,000, the biggest number, according to records of the PNP Firearms and Explosives Division (FED).

Lomibao ordered policemen to descend on such public places as night spots to confiscate guns and set up "round-the-clock checkpoints" and visibility patrols in populated areas.

He also instructed the Directorate for Intelligence and the FED to prepare, respectively, "an updated watch list of suspected holders of loose firearms" and a list of gun holders with unrenewed licenses.

Like what has been done in Abra province, Lomibao ordered regional directors to report mayors or governors who had abused their authority to control and supervise policemen.

He also told the Police Security and Protection Office and other units to immediately recall PNP personnel serving as security to "individuals not covered by existing regulations."

FED chief Senior Supt. Arturo Cacdac told the INQUIRER on the phone: "We will comply. We will have the list in a few days."

Toy guns

Even toy guns will no longer be allowed, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in an interview with dzRH radio, quoting reports that some criminals had resorted to using replicas.

"We want to put a stop to the proliferation of toy guns, which is why the President has given a strong order to the PNP and the Armed Forces," he said.

Ermita said the government had yet to decide whether to extend the amnesty granted to owners of unregistered firearms—a reference to Ms Arroyo's executive order on Dec. 13, 2004, which said the amnesty period would last until Sept. 30.

He said Malacañang would wait for the recommendation of the National Police Commission and the Department of Interior and Local Governments.

Ermita said the government also wanted to plug the entry points of smuggled firearms and ammunition.

"As long as the smuggling of firearms and ammunition continues unabated, the crime rate will go up, or there might even be moves to destabilize the government," he said.

He also said a total shake-up of police forces in all regions would be enforced.

"We have made an example of Abra, where the entire police force from the provincial director to the police chief has been replaced because of lawlessness arising from ... policemen acting as a private army of some mayors," Ermita said.

"A revamp will be implemented in areas where there is a breakdown in peace and order," he said.

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes sacked the 529-strong Abra police force on Tuesday, saying it had failed to enforce laws and keep the peace in the province.

Culture overhaul

Pacheco said nothing short of a total overhaul of culture would stop the current wave of killings with journalists, militant activists and now politicians as targets.

For starters, he said, a law enforcing a strict gun ban in public places should immediately be passed. He said this would mean that only uniformed soldiers and policemen on duty would be allowed to carry firearms in public.

"This way, you do not have to wait for someone to shoot somebody [before enforcing a gun ban]," Pacheco said.

The sale and display of firearms in stores should also stop, he said, citing the case of a gun store in San Juan that supposedly blatantly advertised the sale of long firearms.

Pacheco said all guns seized should be destroyed in public view, and tinted windows should not be allowed in vehicles.

But this change has to start from the top, with the President and lawmakers leading the country toward a "culture of life," Pacheco said.

No more displays

Lomibao has in fact also banned the display of high-powered firearms and other military weapons in gun stores and shows nationwide.

In a memorandum to the FED and Civil Security Group, a copy of which was shown to the INQUIRER, Lomibao said it was "understood" that imported high-powered firearms were only for "qualified end users, like the military, police and other law enforcement [agents]."

Shooting competitions must exclude the category of high-powered firearms, per Lomibao's directive. This means that owners of long firearms can no longer carry these to a competition, or even take these outside their homes without a permit to carry (PTC) issued only by the PNP chief.

"And I don't think the PNP chief will issue a PTC [for long firearms]," Cacdac said.

The reason is simple, said PNP Deputy Director General Oscar de Leon, deputy chief for operations, who had recommended the issuance of Lomibao's memorandum.

Civilians "should only have shotguns," De Leon said. "We don't want other areas in the country to be like Abra."

Special authority

Cacdac said displaying high-powered firearms had traditionally been banned.

But on some occasions, as in the gun show at the SM Megamall last year, the firearms industry was given "special authority" to display assault rifles.

"But now, we will stop that too," Cacdac said.

Certain persons have been allowed to register high-powered firearms under the PNP's amnesty program. Once licensed, they can bring the guns outside their homes with the issuance of a permit to transport (PTT).

"A PTT is very specific, issued so a gun owner can carry his gun to a competition," Cacdac said.

Banned firearms

The other time a PTT is issued is when a long firearm is brought to the PNP headquarters to be licensed.

De Leon had this message to the firearms industry: "Your survival must depend on short firearms, not long firearms."

Long firearms banned from commercial use include M16 rifles, Bushmasters, AK47s and other weapons classified as assault rifles. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Lanot camp warns of more bloodshed

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SUPPORTERS of former Pasig Rep. Henry Lanot are urging authorities to find those behind his killing to prevent "more bloodshed" in the city.

"If the case is not solved, we will not be surprised if there will be another Henry Lanot," former Councilor Sonny Rivera yesterday told the INQUIRER.

Lanot's angry supporters have been planning to hold mass actions in front of City Hall, or even turn his funeral into a protest rally.

Rivera was bolder. "Our people participated in a peaceful election. If they see that their voices are unheard, they might even take the law into their own hands," he said in Filipino.

"But we don't want that to happen," he added. "The government must solve the case immediately."

Lanot was shot dead on Wednesday afternoon while having lunch in a Pasig restaurant. His supporters quickly said the killing was politically motivated.

After losing the mayoralty race last year, Lanot filed a protest to challenge the victory of Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio.

The case is awaiting resolution.

The Philippine National Police has formed Task Force Lanot to investigate the murder. But Lanot's family has asked the National Bureau of Investigation to join the probe.

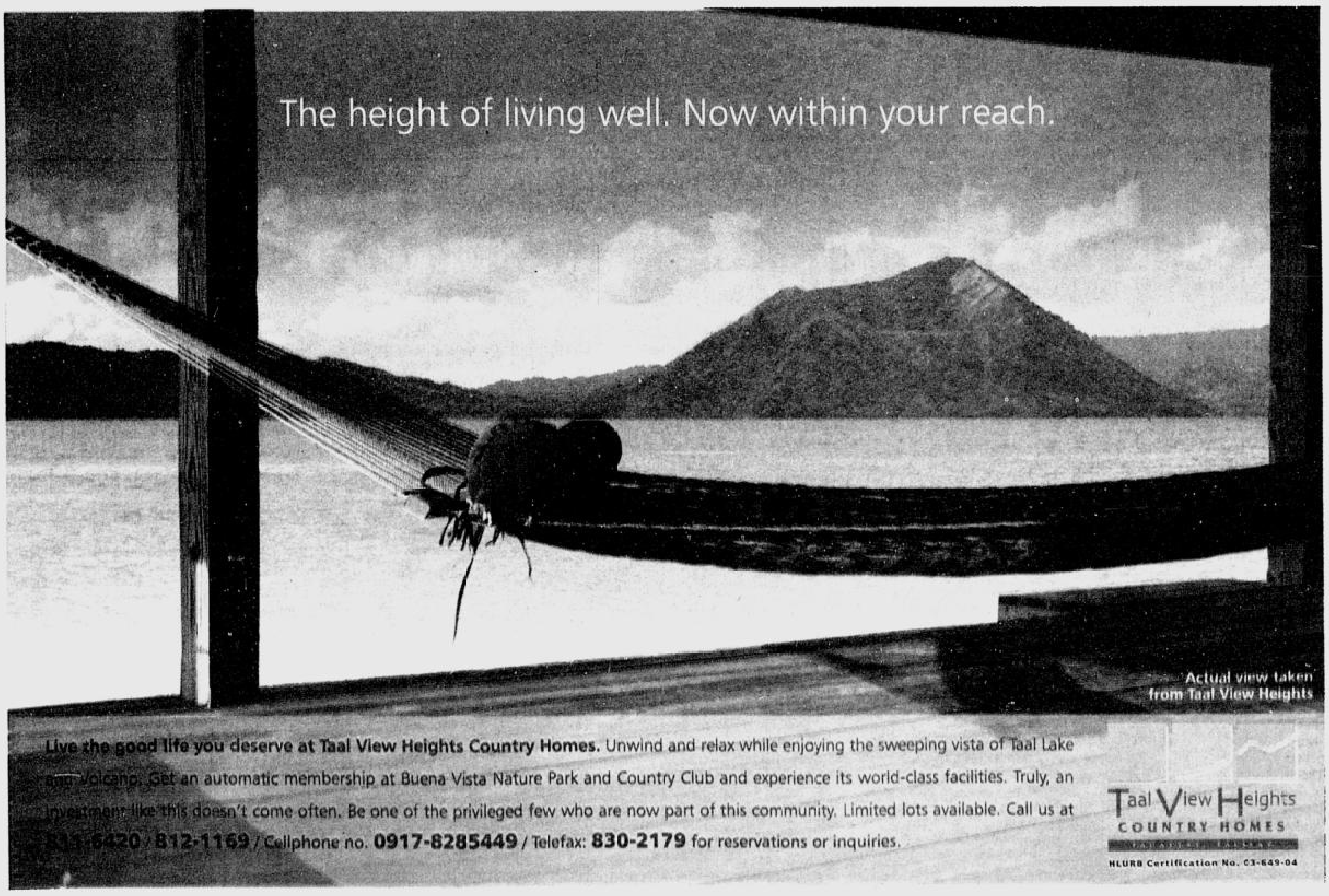
Sought for comment, Pasig police chief Senior Supt. Raul Medina said "normal" security measures were implemented after the murder. "So far, we have not monitored any threats," he said.

Councilor Bobby Eusebio, the mayor's son who is acting as mayor in his absence, said security around City Hall had been intensified.

Lanot's younger brother, Clover, aired an appeal for the gunman to surrender.

"He killed a very good man—the hope of our people. If he still believes in God, he should surrender and identify the mastermind."

But the gunman should surrender to "the right people," Clover said. Asked to explain, he said the gunman should surrender to the NBI or contact the family personally.

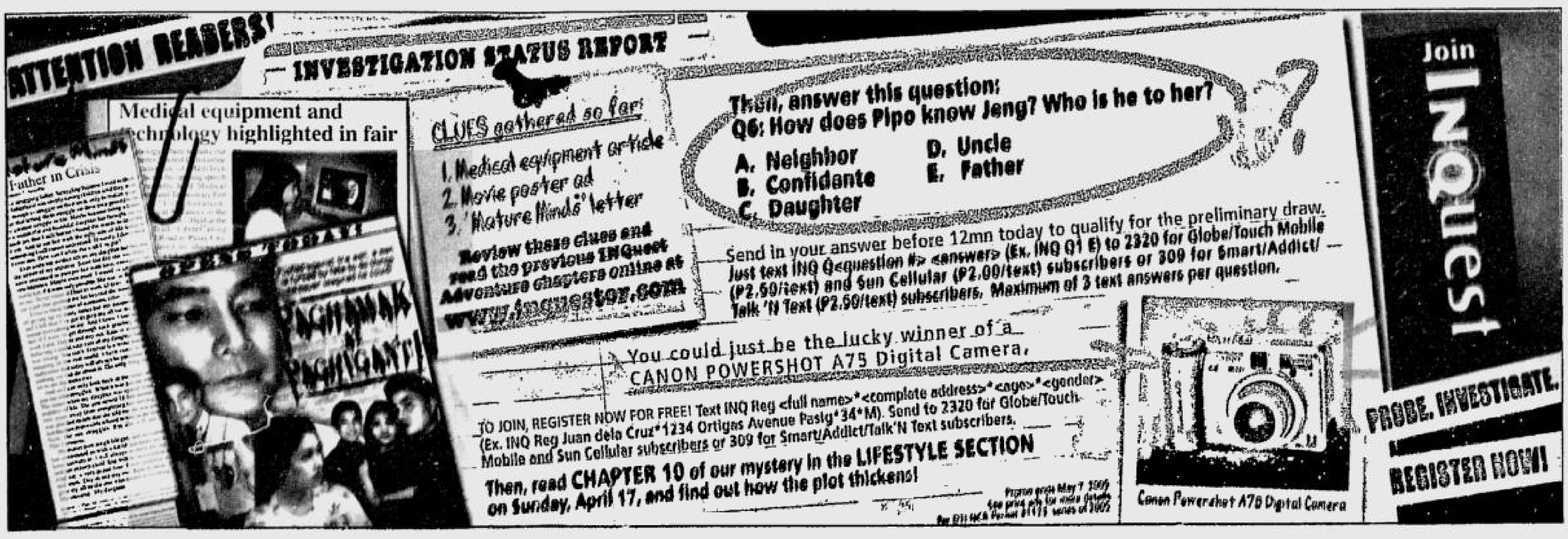

The height of living well. Now within your reach.

Actual view taken from Taal View Heights

Live the good life you deserve at Taal View Heights Country Homes. Unwind and relax while enjoying the sweeping vista of Taal Lake and Volcano. Get an automatic membership at Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club and experience its world-class facilities. Truly, an investment like this doesn't come often. Be one of the privileged few who are now part of this community. Limited lots available. Call us at **811-6420 / 812-1169** / Cellphone no. **0917-8285449** / Telefax: **830-2179** for reservations or inquiries.

Taal View Heights COUNTRY HOMES

HLURB Certification No. 03-649-04


ATTENTION READERS!

INVESTIGATION STATUS REPORT

CLUES gathered so far:
1. Medical equipment article
2. Movie poster ad
3. "Mature Minds" letter

Review these clues and read the previous INQuest Adventure chapters online at www.inquestor.com

Then, answer this question:
Q6: How does Pipo know Jeng? Who is he to her?
A. Neighbor
B. Confidante
C. Daughter
D. Uncle
E. Father

Send in your answer before 12mn today to qualify for the preliminary draw. Just text INQ Q<question #> <answer> (Ex. INQ Q1 E) to 2320 for Globe/Touch Mobile (P2.50/text) and Sun Cellular (P2.00/text) subscribers or 309 for Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text (P2.50/text) subscribers. Maximum of 3 text answers per question.

You could just be the lucky winner of a CANON POWERSHOT A75 Digital Camera.

TO JOIN, REGISTER NOW FOR FREE! Text INQ Reg <full name>*<complete address>*<age>*<gender> (Ex. INQ Reg Juan dela Cruz*1234 Ortigas Avenue Pasig*34*M). Send to 2320 for Globe/Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers or 309 for Smart/Addict/Talk'N Text subscribers.

Then, read CHAPTER 10 of our mystery in the LIFESTYLE SECTION on Sunday, April 17, and find out how the plot thickens!

Canon Powershot A75 Digital Camera

Join INQuest

PROBE. INVESTIGATE.

REGISTER NOW!

Palace to Congress: Just give us the P60 billion

From page A1

sions of the proposed new VAT law.

The bicameral committee meeting is to start on Monday.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said it could take two weeks or more to finalize the bill, but less than that if President Macapagal-Arroyo were to decide to intervene to iron out the differences.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, leads nine-member Senate panel while his House counterpart Rep. Jesli Lapus heads the 25-member panel from the lower chamber.

Angara said the first bicam meeting should clarify the conflicting calculations on how much each version could really raise.

P20-B gap

"We're saying the Senate version will give us a yield of between P45 and P50 billion. The House claims its version will yield a minimum of P80 billion so there already is a gap of P20 billion. That's why I think this meeting today is very important so that we can really get the staff of both Houses together with the DOF to sit down push pencils and come up with a common figure that we can agree," Angara said.

"Without that I think we will just be arguing ourselves to death and not agree at all," he said.

Recto said the Senate version could raise P75 billion while Lapus said the House version could generate between P68 billion and P98 billion.

Sen. Richard Gordon said the conference committee should "thoroughly review" which version will have a "greater impact on the government's economic plan and will inflict minimum pain on the public."

Gordon said it was also important to come up with a VAT law that would be easy to implement.

Purisima expressed confidence the target of P60 billion in new revenues could be raised from the final version of the bill.

But he appeared to have more reservations about the Senate version than that of the House.

Lifting of exemptions

Purisima said the finance department would naturally prefer a higher rate of 12 percent and the lifting of exemptions.

"But clearly a balance would have to be done—what would make our [fiscal] consolidation easy and make the [business] environment in the Philippines competitive compared to [that of] our neighbors," he said.

Purisima said corporations were not happy with the Senate version raising corporate income tax by 3 percent while businessmen were worried that subjecting the power sector would raise the already high power rates in the country.

"This needs to be discussed further. Corporations are not happy but there is a sunset provision that makes it easier for [them] to accept that. And clearly an increase of 3 percent would generate more revenues and that makes us happy. But I'm also realistic that we have to attract more investments into the country so we have to create the right balance," he said.

The Senate version includes power and petroleum under the VAT system but repeals the franchise tax of power companies and proposes to remove or reduce the excise tax on fuel products to "mitigate" the effects on the consumers.

Main issues

Purisima said it was "not [a] preferable situation" to give up revenues that government is already collecting.

The finance secretary said the main issue that the bicam should resolve was the rate and the exemptions.

Recto said his panel would not yield on the 10 percent VAT rate. Lapus was less categorical when asked if the House was flexible on the rate.

Lapus said the pre-bicam meeting was nothing more than an icebreaker.

"We are prepared to work as long as necessary in order to come up with an agreement," he said.

Gabriel Claudio, the President's legislative liaison, attended yesterday's meeting but declined to say which version he preferred.

"I still think there is a way to cushion the impact on the less privileged sectors of society and still meet the revenue targets of the government," he said.

The Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines yesterday threw its support behind the House's version.

In a statement, the joint foreign chambers said an increased VAT rate was essential for the Philippines "to avoid a disastrous financial crisis" in view of insufficient public revenue collections.

'No-pass through'

The group cautioned Congress, however, against approving the "no-pass through" provision for the power sector, saying this would erode the income and viability of independent power producers and force them to close down at a time when power shortages are already being felt in the Visayas and Mindanao.

"For the power sector, these provisions will have the effect not only of discouraging new domestic and foreign investment in generation companies, but also may erode their taxable income and long-term financial viability, forcing some IPPs to close, thus reducing the supply of power," it said.

The group also opposed the Senate bill's provision raising the corporate income tax, saying that this ran counter to the worldwide trend to lower corporate income taxes.

"Already the Philippines has the highest corporate income tax in Asean. Raising these taxes will not only encourage tax avoidance but also makes the country less competitive vis-a-vis its Asean neighbors," it said.

House leaders yesterday rejected the idea that Malacañang should intervene in case of a stalemate on the VAT bill.

Angara had proposed on Thursday that Congress seek the President's intervention to hasten the passage of the measure.

Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier, vice chair of the committee on ways and means and a member of the bicameral conference committee, said the matter was an "affair of Congress" and the President should not interfere.

"This would be tantamount to passing the lawmakers' job to the President," said Javier.

Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin said it was unlikely that the President would intervene "because it has never been her policy or practice to interfere in legislative matters."

"She respects the separation of powers between the executive and legislative. She can veto the bill, but she will not intervene in the bicameral developments," said the Mindanao lawmaker.

Domestic air fares

A domestic airline executive yesterday said domestic air fares would increase if the Senate proposal to impose a 10-percent VAT on domestic air fares and cargo were to pass.

"This will result in higher air fares because naturally it will be passed on to the public," said Jack Po, president of Asian Spirit.

Po said the Domestic Airline Council, the umbrella organization of local airlines, was set to submit a letter to the Senate to protest the provision.

Po said higher domestic air fares would also "greatly affect the country's tourism program."

"At this stage, one of the things that makes local travel attractive is the low cost of air fare," he said.

A one-way ticket on a domestic flight costs an average of P2,000 to P2,500, said Po whose airline has a 20-percent market share of the domestic airline market. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio and Nikko Dizon*

House vs Senate: The VAT gap

THE TWO houses of Congress have approved different versions of an expanded value-added tax (VAT) designed to boost revenue as the government tries to trim its budget deficit and cut debt.

On Monday, a joint congressional panel will begin merging the two versions into a new bill that must then go to another vote before being sent to President Macapagal-Arroyo to be signed into law.

Following are key points of the VAT bills passed by the two chambers:

The Senate version, estimated to raise at least P65 billion per year.

- Keeps VAT rate at 10 percent.
- Raises corporate income tax to 35 percent from 32 percent for four years.
- Raises tax on raw materials to 4 percent from 1.5 percent for processors of sardines, mackerel, milk, refined sugar and cooking oil.
- Imposes VAT on previously exempt sectors such as power generation, transmission and distribution but specifies the VAT levied on companies should not be passed on to households.
- Violation of "no pass through" provision for power firms subject to fines of P2 million to P4 million and possible imprisonment.
- Other previously exempt items to be covered by the 10 percent VAT are sales by domestic airlines and sea transport firms, fuel and other petroleum products.

The House of Representatives passed two VAT-related bills. The first aims to raise P35 billion per year by raising the rate and the second is estimated to generate P25 billion per year by imposing a multi-tiered rate on previously exempt sectors.

- Raises VAT rate to 12 percent.
- Sale of power and petroleum products are subject to VAT of 4 percent in the first year, 6 percent in the second, 8 percent in the third and 12 percent in the fourth.
- Doctors and lawyers must pay 12 percent VAT, but doctors who serve poor patients and lawyers assisting subsistence farmers will be exempt from paying VAT.
- VAT rate on locally produced sardines, mackerel, refined sugar, milk and cooking oil cut to 6 percent from 8.5 percent. Imported brands subject to 8 percent VAT.
- VAT on locally produced instant noodles and non-branded medicines cut to 6 percent from 10 percent. Imported versions subject to 8 percent VAT.
- Exempted from VAT: The sale of liquefied petroleum gas, commonly used for cooking in the Philippines, as well as power and fuel generated from biomass, solar and wind sources. *Reuters*

SC ruling: Whatever . . .

From page A1

Appeals partly on the basis of text messages she had sent an employee of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. demanding P1 million for a favorable ruling.

The ruling on the case against Elvira Cruz-Apao, acting clerk of court of the CA's 15th division, in effect affirmed the tribunal's 2001 Rules on Evidence recognizing the popular text messaging system as a form of evidence in court.

Rules on Evidence

The tribunal said complainant Zaldy Nuez was able to prove by his testimony, in conjunction with the text messages from Apao that were duly presented to the CA fact-finding committee, that the latter had asked for P1 million in exchange for a favorable decision on Nuez's pending case with the appellate court.

The Rules on Evidence were issued as part of the Electronic Commerce Act (Republic Act No. 8792) of 2000.

According to the rules, "telephone conversations [and] text messages" are part of "ephemeral electronic communications" that are now recognized as evidence in court.

"Ephemeral electronic communications shall be proven by the testimony of a person who was a party to the same, or who has a personal knowledge thereof," the Supreme Court said, noting that in this case, Nuez was the "recipient" of the messages and had testified on their contents.

Moreover, the tribunal said, Apao had admitted that the mobile phone number reflected on Nuez's phone and "from which the messages originated, was hers."

'That's how things are'

Nuez, who is contesting an allegedly illegal dismissal order from the Pagcor, supposedly approached Apao last year to facilitate the issuance of a favoring ruling in the case that had remained unresolved at the CA for years now.

But Apao was said to have demanded P1 million despite Nuez's appeals to lower the amount.

"*Eh ganoon talaga ang lakaran dito, eh. Kung wala kang pera, pasensya na* (That's how things are here. If you don't have money, it's just too bad)," Apao was said to have told Nuez when they were negotiating the amount.

Apao later said in a text message: "*Alam mo, di ko iyon* price. *Ang nagbigay noon, yung gagawa. Wala ako doon* (You know, I did not dictate the price. The one who is to do the ruling set the price)."

Nuez then decided to go to the then Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission's Special Projects Group and the TV program "Imbestigador" to set an entrapment for Apao.

A day before the appointed day for the delivery of money at a popular fast food joint in Manila, Apao sent Nuez this message: "*Oo naman, ayusin nyo yung hindi halatang pera* (Arrange it in such a way that it won't look like it's money)."

Marked money

The PAOCC apprehended Apao with the marked money at noon on Sept. 28 last year.

Based on the incident, the appellate court formed a team to investigate Apao and eventually recommended her dismissal. Nuez also sued her for grave misconduct and for violation of the anti-graft law.

In her defense, Apao said she did not remember sending some of the messages, and claimed that the entrapment was a "case of instigation." She said it was Nuez who had offered the money to her.

Clear case

But the Supreme Court said "what happened was a clear case of entrapment."

"We have no doubt as to the probative value of the text messages as evidence in determining the guilt or lack thereof of the respondent in the case," it said.

The tribunal also barred Apao from seeking employment in the government and forfeited her retirement benefits.

Apao had been in the government service for 24 years.

Great Savings on Digital Camcorders.

We've attached something great to our Digital Camcorders!
Choose from 0% interest deals or great value on new models only from AV Surfer.

0% INTEREST DEALS ON THESE MODELS

SAMSUNG SC-D353
• Mini DV Format
• 2.5" Touch Panel LCD Screen
• Digital Still Camera Function
• 20x Optical Zoom / 900x Digital Zoom
SRP P28,995
6 mos. (P4,832.50/mo.)
FREE: Tripod & Bag

SAMSUNG SC-MC110
• MPEG4 SP, JPEG, MP3, G.711 Format
• 2.0" LCD Screen
• 512MB Built-In Memory w/ Memory stick slot
• 10x Optical Zoom / 100x Digital Zoom
SRP P54,995
6 mos. (P9,165.83/mo.)
FREE: Tripod & Bag

PANASONIC PV-GS9
• Mini DV Format
• 2.5" Touch Panel LCD Screen
• Digital Still Camera Function
• 20x Optical Zoom / 800x Digital Zoom
SRP P22,800
6 mos. (P3,800/mo.)
FREE: Tripod & Bag

PANASONIC PV-GS55
• Mini DV Format
• 2.5" Touch Panel LCD Screen
• Digital Still Camera Function
• 10x Optical Zoom / 700x Digital Zoom
SRP P34,800
6 mos. (P5,800/mo.)
FREE: Tripod & Bag

GREAT VALUE ON THESE MODELS

SONY DCR-HC21
• Mini DV Format
• 2.5" Touch Panel LCD Screen
• Digital Still Camera Function
• 20x Optical Zoom / 800x Digital Zoom
SRP P28,999
FREE: Handycam Accessory Gift Check (worth P3,000)

SONY DCR-HC32
• Mini DV Format
• 2.5" Touch Panel LCD Screen
• Digital Still Camera Function
• 20x Optical Zoom / 800x Digital Zoom
SRP P35,999
FREE: Handycam Accessory Gift Check (worth P3,000)

CANON ZR-100
• DIGIC DV Format
• 2.5" Touch Panel LCD Screen
• Digital Still Camera Function
• Image Stabilizer
• 20x Optical Zoom / 360x Digital Zoom
SRP P29,500
FREE: P1,000 Avid GC

CANON ZR-200
• DIGIC DV Format
• 2.5" Touch Panel LCD Screen
• Digital Still Camera Function
• Image Stabilizer
• 20x Optical Zoom / 400x Digital Zoom
SRP P32,500
FREE: P1,000 Avid GC

Participating cards: Citibank, BPI, HSBC, Equitable, Metrobank, Diners Club, Security Bank, Standard Chartered
Subject to bank approval. [illegible] Promo Period April 16 - May 16, 2005. Per DTI NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2005

AV Surfer
• ALABANG TOWN CENTER 807-2606 / 807-3541 • ABANAO SQUARE BAGUIO (074) 446-4620 / (074) 446-5067 • AYALA CENTER CEBU (032) 233-3423 / 233-3416
• ALIMALL CUBAO 912-2046 to 49 • ROCKWELL 898-1835 898-1833 • ROBINSONS GALLERIA 632-0110 to 11
• ROBINSONS METROEAST [illegible] • ROBINSONS SAN FERNANDO [illegible]

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Filipino UN peacekeeper killed in Haiti

From page A1

year following Aristide's ouster. A Sri Lankan and a Nepalese peacekeepers were killed in operations against rebel forces last month.

RP troops staying in Haiti

In the Philippines, President Macapagal-Arroyo strongly indicated her government would keep the Filipino contingent in Haiti, despite the incident.

The slain sergeant hailed from Bukidnon with a family based in Camp Aguinaldo, according to his cousin, Alfredo Batomalaque of Antipolo City.

The sergeant's widow declined to be interviewed when reached by the INQUIRER by phone.

Sounding calm, she requested that the family's privacy be respected and all inquiries about her husband be referred to the Armed Forces media office.

Batomalaque's killing underscored the volatile situation in Haiti.

2 versions of the killing

Batomalaque was killed while Baja, the Philippines' Permanent Representative to the UN, was also in the Haitian city for a Security Council assessment mission.

Batomalaque was with a group of peacekeepers from other countries who were laying pipes for a road project in the Cite Soleil slum area, Baja said, citing reports from Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, commanding officer of the Philippine contingent.

Other officials said Batomalaque, who had been in the Army for 22 years, was driving an officer, Uruguayan soldiers and engineers from Chile and Ecuador, in a white UN sport-utility vehicle when he was shot.

The officer was identified as UN deputy chief of operations, US Lt. Col. Robert Casias.

UN troops were barricading side streets and establishing a checkpoint at the main entrance to the Cité Soleil, in an effort to clamp down on gangs believed led by Emmanuel "Dread" Wilme, who commands young men with weapons ranging from sawed-off shotguns to AK-47s.

Heavy gunfire

"Our intention is not to close Cité Soleil," Lt. Gen. Augusto Heleno Ribeiro, the UN force's Brazilian commander, said. "We want to control the gangs and allow the humanitarian [aid] to go into Cité Soleil."

Troops from Ecuador and Jordan returned fire, he said.

"They received a good quantity of fire," Heleno said. "They answered the fire."

Ms Arroyo, asked at a press conference in Iloilo if her country would keep its troops in Haiti, said UN Security Council decisions had the force of law and added: "As a member of the Security Council ... we do have the moral obligation to contribute to the peace keeping efforts of the UN."

DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said a pullout of Filipino troops from Haiti because of the incident "is not being discussed."

Risks involved

"The soldiers were aware of the risk when they went there as well as their higher noble objectives," he told the INQUIRER in an interview.

"Sergeant Batomalaque courageously faced the risk of participating in the peacekeeping efforts in Haiti to help pursue a noble humanitarian cause," Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said.

Baja said Haiti's interim Prime Minister Gerald Latortue had called him to express his government's and his personal condolences to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Batomalaque's family, and the Filipino people.

Filipino peacekeepers

The Philippines currently has a total of 462 troops and police officers involved in UN peacekeeping operations. They are deployed in Afghanistan, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, East Timor, Haiti, Kosovo and Liberia.

The first attack on a Filipino unit in Haiti occurred last March 31, when Staff Sgt. Rodrigo Galam was shot twice by a sniper while guarding a hotel in Port-au-Prince. But he was unharmed.

The UN Stabilization Mission to Haiti has a 6,200-strong peacekeeping contingent.

Commitment with UN

Asuque, in a separate statement, said the Philippine troops would remain in Haiti.

"We have a commitment with the UN. Soldiers know the risk. We'll continue with the work of peacekeeping in Haiti," he said.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines, in a statement, extended its condolences to Batomalaque's family and said: "The AFP salutes Sgt. Antonio Batomalaque for being a true and brave soldier."

Sniper's bullet

AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual said: "It is unfortunate that a Filipino peacekeeper who is on a humanitarian mission died [by a] sniper bullet. This is an isolated incident and as a soldier, this will further motivate us to help other people."

He added: "We are in a community of nations bound to assist depressed nation-brothers."

The Philippines deployed soldiers and police in Haiti in November, mainly to provide administrative and logistical support to the UN headquarters in Port-au-Prince as clerks, drivers, security, cooks, messengers and postal workers.

The Caribbean country of 8 million people has been mired in political upheaval exacerbated by the ouster of its elected president, Aristide.

Poorest nation

A UN effort to disarm restive former soldiers in the countryside and gangs of young men in Port-au-Prince's slums has produced only a handful of weapons.

Some international observers say despite more aggressive UN moves against armed bands in recent months, tens of thousands of high-powered weapons pose a risk to stability and upcoming elections.

Haiti is the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation, and residents desperate for fuel and cash have stripped its hillsides of trees, harming water quality and contributing to devastating floods.

Outside observers, however, have focused on the slow progress toward disarming militants, saying the effort has been hampered by a lack of focus and money.

Some observers, such as Amnesty International, also say the UN mission has not improved the human rights situation in Haiti, where police have been accused of brutality, corruption and summary executions of political opponents.

Exile in South Africa

Aristide, a former priest who championed Haiti's poor but faced accusations in recent years of corruption and despotism, fled Haiti on Feb. 29, 2004, after a monthlong revolt by gangs and former soldiers. He is now in exile in South Africa.

An interim government led by Prime Minister Gerard Latortue and backed by the United States and France was appointed to fill the vacuum, but the impoverished Caribbean country has slid deeper into instability.

Pro- and anti-Aristide gangs fight frequent gun battles, the economy remains in shambles, and food is in short supply.

At least 650 people have died since September, according to various human rights organizations.

Armed lawlessness and instability threaten to delay presidential elections due in November, Haiti's electoral agency said this week. *With reports from Volt Contreras, Gil Cabacungan Jr., Dona Pazzibugan, AP and AFP*

Lots of fun, jokes, nothing seditious in UNO meeting

By Fe Zamora

SEDITION, terrorism and President Macapagal-Arroyo's private audience with the late Pope John Paul II were on the table at the United National Opposition's first meeting with their "inspiration," movie star Susan Roces, on Thursday night.

But these issues were discussed in the spirit of jest, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay was quick to warn.

To laughter from the crowd, Binay twitted the President for a CNN interview where she claimed that she decided to break away from the Estrada administration after a private audience with the Pope on Oct. 13, 2000.

In fact, Ms Arroyo had resigned as vice president the day before she met with the Pope.

Roces broke into a big smile at Binay's joking at the expense of Ms Arroyo.

"Greg, why don't you also tell us what transpired during your meeting with the Pope? This is the night for inspirational words, like people power, morality...," said Binay as he introduced speaker Gregorio Honasan, a former senator and known coup plotter.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco brought the house down when he urged Bing Simon, a UNO leader in Rizal province, to do something for detained ex-President Estrada, who is under rest house arrest in Tanay.

"Bing, *kung mahal nyo talaga si Erap, nandiyan din naman siya sa Rizal, ilabas nyo na lang* [Bing, if you people really love Erap, he's just in Rizal, why don't you spring him]," Tiangco said to cheers from the audience.

Among those at the meeting were former Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales, Caloocan Rep. Baby Asistio, former Quezon City Mayor Mel Mathay, former Congressman Digs Dilangalen and movie actor Niño Muhlach.

Renato Reyes of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said it was important "not only to look for new leaders but also on the form and substance of the new leadership."

"Let's go to another topic before this meeting becomes seditious," said Binay, bringing a new round of laughter.

Amused that an opposition meeting could be so much fun, Roces was moved to tease Rep. Butz Aquino, who was opposed to her husband's candidacy in May 2004.

"This Butz, we attended the same parties in our younger days, and I knew the girls he was squiring around. He was even my leading man in one show. Then, he ups and opposes my husband," said Roces in a mixture of English and Filipino, as she gave a red-faced Aquino a buss.

Rivals for papacy ...

From page A1

work), Franciscans (poverty), Dominicans (study and preaching), Carmelites (mysticism and deep spirituality), Divine Word (media and missionary activity), and Jesuits (rock-solid loyalty to the pope especially during the counter-reformation).

There are only 20 cardinal electors coming from the religious orders, comprising just a sixth of the conclave. But they are seen as leading candidates for pope.

Franciscans, Dominicans

The Franciscans have the most number of cardinal electors with four. The top Franciscan candidate is Cardinal Claudio Hummes of Sao Paolo, Brazil.

The Dominicans, linked with the Franciscans historically since both orders were established at the same time and their founders—St. Dominic and St. Francis—were friends who reformed the church during the Middle Ages, have a papal contender in Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, Austria.

If Schonborn gets elected, he will follow in the footsteps of notable Dominican popes, particularly Pius V, who rallied the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto, the 15th century naval battle that decisively checked the Muslim Ottoman threat to Christian Europe.

Pius V is a canonized saint.

No Jesuit pope

There has never been a Jesuit pope, but that may change if Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, 69, of Buenos Aires is elected.

The Jesuits have another papabile in Cardinal Carlo Martini, 78, who is retired as archbishop of Milan. Ten years ago, Martini was at the top of the list of those likely to succeed John Paul II.

The Salesians, a relatively younger order, have a candidate in Oscar Rodriguez Madariaga, 62, of Honduras.

Other religious cardinals are Oblate Francis Eugene George, 68, of Chicago; Redemptorist Julio Sandoval Terrazas, 69, of Bolivia; and Marist Jose Saravia, 73, the prefect of the Congregation of Saints.

3rd World choices?

Hummes, Bergoglio and Madariaga are considered strong candidates inasmuch as papal watchers expect the pope to come from the Third World.

Although theologically conservative, the Latin American cardinals, Pernia said, have "an appreciation of development issues."

Schonborn, despite being a European, is a strong contender because of his youth, charm, scholarship and good track record in reaching out to the Muslims and in dealing firmly with clerical sex abuses.

Schonborn is also familiar to the Roman curia for being the general editor of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," the massive work under John Paul II that synthesized the major teachings of the Church for easy understanding by laymen.

The religious orders are usually pitted against one another in the popular imagination.

In the medieval novel by the Italian Umberto Eco, "The Name of the Rose," the Franciscan hero is a Sherlock Holmes who contends with a devil's advocate in the person of a Dominican preacher, who is a member of the Inquisition, forerunner of today's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The Jesuits are often presented as foil to the Dominicans since both are learned orders with focus on education and scholarship.

But the rivalry in modern times is more imaginary than real. The Dominicans and Franciscans, for example, have a joint justice and peace commission that sits as observer in the United Nations.

The Jesuits and the Dominicans tend to be theologically complementary and sometimes cooperate in scholarship.

The real rivalry, according to leaders of religious orders, is between the religious and the regular clergy as represented by the secular clergy-dominated Vatican bureaucracy and lay movements, like the Opus Dei and the Focolare.

Rift with Vatican

Despite the appointment of cardinals and bishops among the religious, relations between the Roman curia and the religious orders are frosty.

According to Fr. Jerry Stookey, a deputy of the Dominican curia, the Vatican snubbed an important gathering of 800 superiors of religious congregations from all over the world last November.

Stookey said the Vatican canceled a Mass with the Pope without notice.

In the most recent slight of all, the head of the federation of religious superiors—a religious brother and not a cleric—was not invited to the papal funeral.

The religious orders and congregations are seen by the Vatican as intractable, religious leaders said.

"For the past few years, the Roman Curia has been exerting control over the church. But they can't control the religious orders," said Spanish Dominican priest Carlos Rodriguez Pinero, head of research for the federation of religious congregations here.

In addition, the religious orders tend to be "more progressive, more daring in their theological explorations," said Pernia.

"Theology—it is just one of the gifts of the orders," Stookey said. "But sometimes, theologians lock horns with the official church teaching."

Most if not all of the theologians disciplined or questioned during the reign of John Paul II came from religious orders.

They included the French Dominican Jacques Pohrier (who forwarded dramatic views on Christ's resurrection); the Jesuit Karl Rahner (who enunciated the view of the "anonymous Christian"); and Gustavo Gutierrez, the "father of liberation theology," and a secular priest who joined the French Dominicans in 2001.

Stookey said many religious were alarmed at the poor relations between the religious, on one hand, and the secular clergy and the Vatican, on the other hand.

"A religious pope could help break some of the differences," the Dominican said. "A religious pope will move things forward," he said.

US scientific ...

From page A1

stitute of Technology.

Jeremy Stribling said on Thursday that he and two fellow MIT graduate students questioned the standards of some academic conferences, so they wrote a computer program to generate research papers complete with nonsensical text, charts and diagrams.

The trio submitted two of the randomly assembled papers to the World Multiconference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics (WMSCI), scheduled to be held July 10-13 in Orlando, Florida.

To their surprise, one of the papers—"Rooter: A Methodology for the Typical Unification of Access Points and Redundancy"—was accepted for presentation.

'Mumbo-jumbo'

The prank recalled a 1996 hoax in which New York University physicist Alan Sokal succeeded in getting an entire paper with a mix of truths, falsehoods, non sequiturs and otherwise meaningless mumbo-jumbo published in the journal Social Text.

Stribling said he and his colleagues only learned about the Social Text affair after submitting their paper.

"Rooter" features such mind-bending gems as: "the model for our heuristic consists of four independent components: simulated annealing, active networks, flexible modalities, and the study of reinforcement learning" and "We implemented our scatter/gather I/O server in Simula-67, augmented with opportunistically pipelined extensions."

Stribling said the trio targeted WMSCI because it is notorious within the field of computer science for sending copious e-mails that solicit admissions to the conference.

"We were tired of the spam," Stribling told Reuters in a telephone interview, adding that his team wanted to challenge the standards of the conference's peer review process.

Not reviewed

Nagib Callaos, a conference organizer, said the paper was one of a small number accepted on a "non-reviewed" basis —meaning that reviewers had not yet given their feedback by the acceptance deadline.

"We thought that it might be unfair to refuse a paper that was not refused by any of its three selected reviewers," Callaos wrote in an e-mail. "The author of a non-reviewed paper has complete responsibility for the content of their paper."

However, Callaos said conference organizers were reviewing their acceptance procedures in light of the hoax.

Asked whether he would disinvite the MIT students, Callaos replied: "Bogus papers should not be included in the conference program."

Stribling said conference organizers had not yet formally rescinded their invitation to present the paper.

'Randomly generated talk

The students were soliciting cash donations so they could attend the conference and give what Stribling billed as a "randomly generated talk." So far, they have raised more than $2,000 over the Internet. *Reuters*

Susan unites GMA foes

From page A1

chance to seek the truth."

The Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, in late March dismissed Poe's electoral protest as well as his widow's petition to substitute in the protest.

Sentiments amplified

Rez Cortez, leader of the National Council of Concerned Volunteers (NCCV), said Roces' rejection of the Arroyo presidency "amplified all our sentiments."

"Thank you for articulating our sentiments which we could not express because we are just small, ordinary people," Cortez said.

Cortez said the NCCV would pursue its planned People's Electoral Tribunal where they would present evidence of the administration's alleged cheating in the May 2004 elections.

"Since they have closed all legal options, we will go for this," he said.

At the dinner, Roces maintained she was not leading any movement to unseat the President.

"I am just an inspiration," she told reporters, but admitted that she was "not in control of the minds and hearts" of the FPJ volunteers planning to pursue Poe's electoral protest through mass actions.

Hailed by militants

Roces' anti-administration message was hailed by militant groups as summing up the real state of the nation.

"She is a refreshing alternative that many ordinary folks can relate to. Her biggest advantage is that she appears to have no political ambition or agenda for herself," said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

Bayan said it would like to hear more from Roces concerning her views on the issues of the people.

"Malacañang should listen and listen well. They cannot simply dismiss Susan Roces' statements as mere freedom of expression. The message of Ms Roces reflects the sentiments of many Filipinos," Reyes said.

Another problem

But the newfound crusade of Roces was yet another problem that the country cannot afford to face at this time, said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"We are already facing a lot of problems. If only we are stable now, we can easily solve our problems and probably hasten our development," he told dwIZ radio.

"But if we get another one, our problems would only pile up and this is not good for all of us." Bunye said of the street protests being planned by Poe's supporters.

Bunye said the Poe camp's main target was not President Macapagal-Arroyo but the Presidential Electoral Tribunal which decided to junk Poe's electoral protest.

Rule of law

The PET is the "final arbiter in cases like this electoral protest."

"The decision is part of the rule of law and we need to respect the law to have stability," he said.

Administration legislators yesterday urged Roces to "stop harping" on the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, and Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso said Roces should move on and not allow herself to be "used by irresponsible members of the opposition out to avenge the ouster of their titular head, former President Joseph Estrada."

"It's like beating a dead horse. It's been dead so long, you cannot even use it to make *tapa* [beef jerky] anymore," Nograles said in a statement.

He said the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration was a long "dead issue" even before the Supreme Court unanimously junked Roces' petition.

Nograles urged Roces to move on and transform herself into a public servant if she wanted to continue what her husband started.

Blanket accusations

"Her statement of allowing Poe's supporters to continue their fight in the streets contradicts her character as a peaceful and rational person," he said.

"It's also disappointing that after earlier declaring her intent to abide by the SC decision, she's now hitting the judiciary and the government with blanket accusations," he added.

Veloso said that if Roces wanted to "start a new career as a critic" of the President, then she should at least be a "responsible" critic."

"Her saying she can't stop the angry supporters of her husband is like giving them a virtual license to attempt to destabilize the government," he said.

Veloso said such destabilization moves were not what Poe stood for.

Peaceful resolution

"In fact, FPJ had left to the wisdom of the court the decision on his poll protest. He wanted a peaceful resolution of his case, he would not have wanted his supporters to become unruly in case of a dismissal of his case," he said.

EZ2
14 27

SUERTRES
1 5 4

FOUR DIGIT
3 2 8 7
(In exact order)

Text us your feedback:
inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe Jr.

MEGALOTTO 6/45
6 10 12 20 37 42
₱5,262,257.70

SWEEPSTAKES
1 4 1 2 5 0 [illegible]
₱100,000.00

Muntinlupa tax system model for others

By Fran Katigbak

HOW'S this for role models?

Twenty-six cities and municipalities in the country have adopted the Real Property Tax Administration (RPTA) system of Muntinlupa City. Another municipality is set to follow their lead.

Within the month, Pavia, Iloilo, would bring home the RPTA model system cited by the Department of Finance, Civil Service Commission and the Galing Pook Awards Committee, said Tez Valencia, head of Muntinlupa's Public Information Office.

Pavia Vice Mayor Hisancha Guillermo and 50 delegates recently went to Muntinlupa for hands-on training on the system.

Others that had adopted the RPTA data computerization technology are Ilagan, Isabela; Laoag City, Bacarra, Dingras, Paoay, Batac, San Nicolas, Vintar, Marcos, Sarrat, Piddig, Pasuquin and Badoc, all in Ilocos Norte; Cabarroguis and Maddela, Quirino; Mauban, Quezon; Calamba and San Pablo City in Laguna; Naujan, Oriental Mindoro; Bacoor, Cavite; Lipa City, Batangas; Solano and Kayapa in Nueva Vizcaya; Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur; Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, and Mambusao, Capiz.

Developed in 1998 by the team of then city assessor Florencio Ciriaco Jr., the system was intended to speed up tax administration duties.

Muntinlupa's City Assessor's Office was certified International Standard Organization 9002 by an international body because of the project.

"Through the system, the city assessors could easily check property and locate the assessed value," Valencia said.

Processing realty tax payments took less time because the waiting period was trimmed down to 15 to 20 minutes.

A city government can also issue tax declaration copies and other certificates, and perform transfer of ownership, reclassification, and segregation and consolidation in a matter of one to 15 minutes. Valencia said the technology helped increase collection efficiency.

One of the more prominent transfers was undertaken by Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos who had arranged for her city to adopt the system.

"Although Muntinlupa can charge those who want the technology, Mayor Jaime Fresnedi would rather give it for free," Valencia said.

"They only have to provide food and lodging for a month to our representative who would introduce the system," she added.

3 cops arrested in Pasig holdup

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A DARING holdup on a busy street in Pasig City yesterday ended in a brief chase and exchange of gunfire between the robbers and members of the Pasig City Police.

One of the suspects, reportedly a policeman, was hit by a bullet on the face and brought to the Pasig City General Hospital. Two other policemen were also arrested.

Angelito Reyes, 56, an employee of the Tabeta Money Changer that was just a few meters away from the Pasig police headquarters, was carrying a brown bag with P10,000.

He had just come from a bank in Barangay Kapasigan where he had the amount changed into smaller denominations.

As he walked near Dr. Pilapil Street at about 9 a.m. yesterday, a man suddenly punched him on the face."The man aimed his gun at me then grabbed my bag which was tucked in my waist," Reyes said. He tried to resist, but the man pushed him then hopped on to a motorcycle driven by another man.

When Reyes yelled for help, the man with a gun fired at him twice. "Luckily, he missed," Reyes said.

But the gunshots caught the attention of policemen nearby, police chief Raul Medina said.

As the alleged robber and his companion made their getaway, they accidentally rammed into a passing jeep. Seeing the responding cops, they ran in different directions.

Two bundles of cash amounting to P4,000 fell on the street. Traffic enforcer Balbino Sarmiento got the money and gave it to the victim.

Policemen caught the man who allegedly punched Reyes. He was later identified as PO1 Melvin Claveria of the San Antonio Police Community Precinct (PCP19).

Police also arrested two other men, who turned out to be policemen as well—PO2 Rodolfo Molina and PO2 Lazaro Hiyao, also of PCP19, who were inside a car Claveria had boarded. The INQUIRER tried to get Molina and Hiyao's side, but they refused to be interviewed. Police said the two had told them they were just in the area at the time of the incident. *With Rio Ribaya, trainee*

CURATOR Norma Liongoren with works of women artists at Gateway Mall: Making art accessible to everyday commuters. RYAN LIM

Direct line to art for MRT, LRT commuters

By DJ Yap

ART BEING an expression of truth and beauty, it should not be confined to stuffy and forbidding museums, according to Norma Liongoren, curator and champion of Filipino women's art.

It is best placed out in the open, where ordinary folk can see it, like the new Gateway Mall in Cubao, Quezon City, where hundreds of commuters pass by daily, going to and coming from the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) terminals, she said.

This is the idea behind "Conversations on Juan Luna and Walong Filipina," an exhibit organized by Liongoren featuring the art of Filipino painter Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, and eight other women artists, including writer Gilda Cordero Fernando, who is mounting her first show. It runs until April 20 at Level 1 of the mall beside the Araneta Center. The railway terminals lead straight to the exhibit area where Liongoren anticipates future showings of Philippine arts and crafts.

Collages, paintings and sculptures are on display in the exhibit organized by Liongoren. The other featured artists are Alma Quinto, Agnes Arellano, Julie Lluch, Brenda Fajardo, Araceli Dans, Ida Bugayong and Anna Fer.

A tribute to icons of Filipino women's art, the exhibit hopes to expose more Filipinos to art works normally seen only in museums and art galleries.

"Art and culture should be available to all," said Liongoren. "Unlike religion and politics, it has a unifying effect on people." Response to the exhibit had been positive.

"I was surprised by the level of enthusiasm among young professionals, mothers with their children, high school students. These are people who came to the mall not intending to see an exhibit, but they watched anyway," Liongoren said.

Studying a sculpture of a heart surrounded by thorns, one student told Liongoren that the artist had probably gone through a lot of pain creating the art work. She added that more young people watch the exhibit than works mounted in her Cubao gallery.

Liongoren had been trying to persuade schools nearby to let their students visit, with disappointing results. But at Gateway, young people come without being asked, she said.

The exhibit was also meant to be an interactive affair not only for children but also for adult viewers. Unlike other galleries that literally tend to create a wall between art and the viewer, touching the art works is encouraged.

'True' ghost story spawns libel case

By DJ Yap

ONE OF the real-life characters in a story published in Book 9 of "True Philippine Ghost Stories," found libelous her depiction in the series on supposedly factual tales of horror.

Christine Cecilia Villarosa, a customer care specialist at Level-Up! Inc., filed libel charges before the Quezon City prosecutor against Michelle Segovia, a former friend who supposedly wrote the story. Villarosa said the story falsely and maliciously portrayed her as a "greedy bitch."

Villarosa said she was the character named Christine in "The Necklace," a story about a mysterious necklace found in the ladies' comfort room of Level-Up!

According to the story, Mitch, a former Level-Up! employee, found the necklace in the sink. Christine, according to the story, asked to keep the jewelry unless someone claimed it.

The story said, since she started wearing the necklace, Christine, who everyone in the office knew "was a real bitch," "smiled more often and became easy to get along with."

But when not wearing the necklace, she reverted to her old habits.

The story also recounted alleged mysterious occurrences in the office since the necklace appeared, such as objects being moved, employees hearing strange laughter and knocking on the door though no one was there.

The story suggested that the necklace might have been a "gift" for Mitch, and the giver was angered that someone else kept it. At the end, though Christine supposedly did not want to return the necklace, Mitch found it in her drawer at home one morning.

Villarosa denied keeping the necklace, saying she gave it back to Segovia, who wanted to wear it to a party.

Though all characters only had first names, Villarosa said people in the office recognized them. The story carried the byline of Paul Co, a former officemate, but Villarosa said she was told it was Segovia, the character named Mitch, who actually wrote the story.

Until she left the company, Segovia was her friend, said Villarosa. Co, who was credited with a byline for the story, was also charged with libel.

Train accident kills birthday boy

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FOR A MONTH now, Emmanuel Gamboa and his friends had gotten into the habit of taking a train to work at 7 a.m.

But yesterday, a day after he turned 19, tragedy struck. Just hours after he and his friends finished celebrating his birthday, Gamboa died after falling off a jampacked Philippine National Railways train coach on the tracks on Mayapis Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

"We were very close to the door… that was the first time we stood there because it was already too crammed inside," said Gamboa's friend, Rigor Orlain.

They had been taking the train from Sampaloc, Manila to get to Makati, where they manually transferred documents and files of the International Federation of the Red Cross from a warehouse on Bagtikan Street to another on Mayapis Street.

Orlain, 22, said around 7:30 a.m., he and Gamboa was just one stop away from their station as the train sped southward between the Vito Cruz and Buendia Stations. Gamboa, who was about an arm's length away from him, suddenly disappeared.

"We heard a thudding sound… he was gone and we knew he had fallen. But the train did not stop even though the bus conductor was blowing his whistle to signal that something went wrong," related Orlain in Filipino.

PO2 Reuel Riodique, investigator from the Makati Police Department's homicide section, said Gamboa was dragged roughly 70 meters before the train stopped at the Buendia Station.

When Gamboa's friends ran back for him, they found the victim's body lying near a creek on Mayapis Street, his severed head some 12 meters away.

"The sleeve of his shirt may have been caught on the tree branches or the roofs of houses, because the train was too close," said Orlain, referring to the row of houses alongside the PNR tracks.

Riodique said the train operator might be held liable for Gamboa's death, as he was killed while on board the train.

Who was the mastermind?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

WHO COULD have masterminded the assassination of former Pasig City Rep. Henry Lanot?

If it was politically motivated, as some quarters are saying, then it's no other than his political enemy. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to determine who was Lanot's political enemy.

He ran in the last election for mayor of Pasig and lost. He filed an electoral protest against his rival and the case was being heard when he was killed.

The suspicion that his political enemy was behind it became all the more apparent when the guy was reported to be out of the country.

Matagal nang bumenta ang ganyang gimik. Many assassinations were done when the mastermind was out of town or vacationing in another country. That's the most convenient excuse.

* * *

Fouzi Ali Bondagjy, the Saudi Arabian who's filed several libel cases against me and the INQUIRER publisher and editor in chief, has been denounced by a big number of Maranaw Muslims for alleged estafa.

Bondagjy, according to 323 Maranaws, ran away with their hard-earned money amounting to US$133,765. The amount represented their fare to Mecca for the hajj pilgrimage in January, last year.

Bondagjy's travel agency was used by the Muslim Filipinos in taking care of their travel to Mecca. The complainants said they never got to Mecca as Bondagjy reportedly ran away with their money.

On Monday, Bondagjy's alleged victims will troop to the office of Immigration Commissioner Al Fernandez to lodge their complaints.

They will be accompanied by Bondagjy's former wife, Sabrina Artadi, a former Binibining Pilipinas title holder, who complains that she is being harassed by the Arab. Bondagjy has filed a case against Artadi with the Shari'a court to force her to reconcile with him.

* * *

The Department of Justice has received the complaints of a group of farmers in Solana, Cagayan, who filed a complaint against lawyer Victor I. Padilla for alleged landgrabbing.

The lawyer allegedly appropriated forest lands that the farmers had converted into farms.

Padilla allegedly used his connections in Cagayan to deprive the farmers of their land.

The farmers came to me and I referred their case to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez who asked his aides to look into the complaints.

* * *

And now, for a bit of trivia. The so-called Pope mobile, or the van encased in armored glass that the late Pope John Paul II rode when he went around Metro Manila in 1995, was a joint venture between Francisco Motors and CTK Inc.

Francisco Motors made the engine and body, but the whole armoring, including the tires, was made by CTK Inc.

I happen to be a good friend of Edison Cham, one of the owners of the family-owned CTK Inc.

I hope this puts the issue to rest on which company manufactured the Pope mobile.

'Aliwan' opens April 21

THE MANILA Broadcasting Company (MBC) and Star City, in cooperation with the cities of Pasay and Manila and the Cultural Center of the Philippines, are mounting Aliwan Fiesta 2005 on April 21-23.

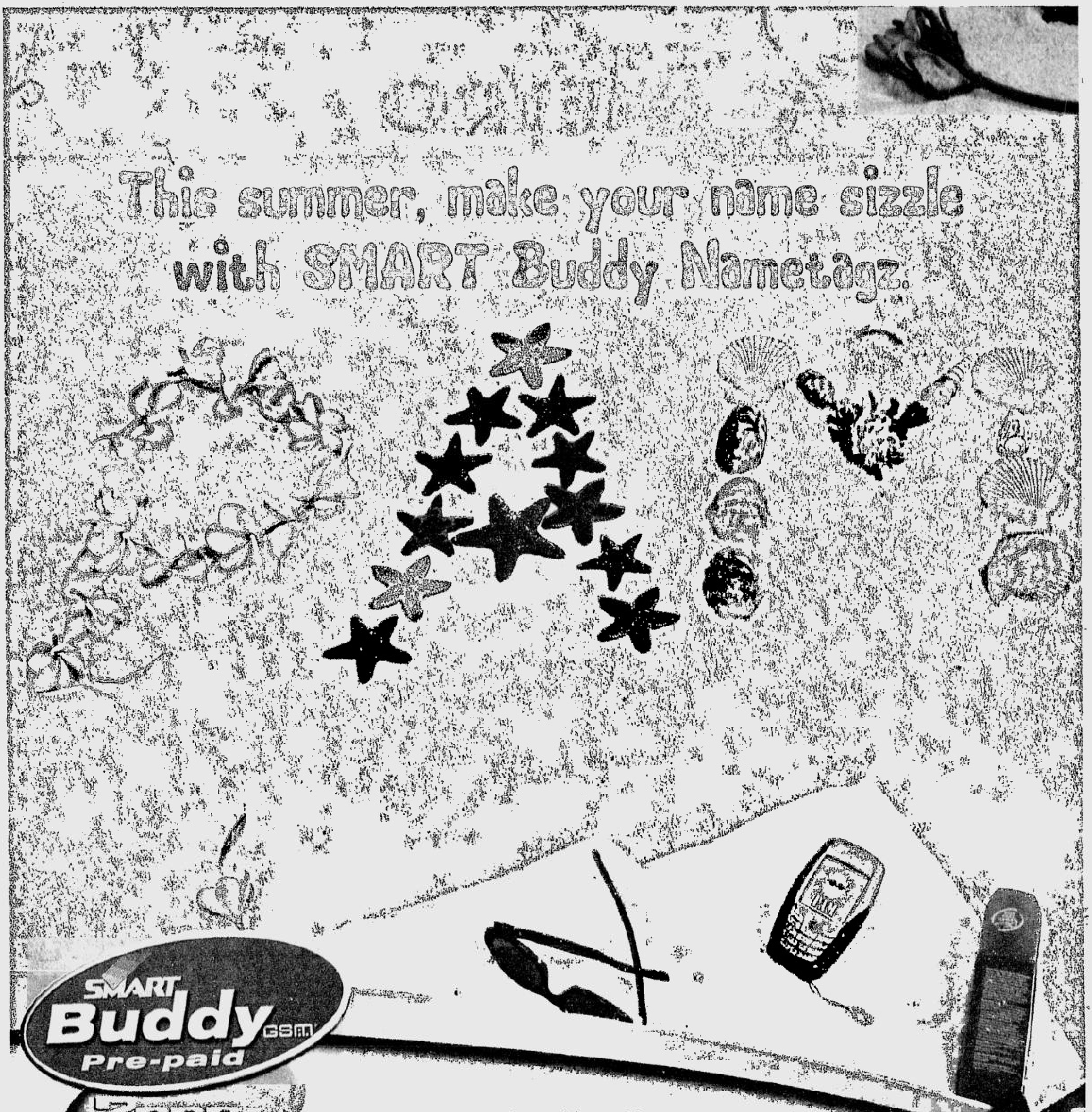
Dubbed as the Philippines' grandest, Aliwan Fiesta 2005 brings to one venue the festivals of all 16 regions for a cultural extravaganza involving over 3,000 of the country's most talented artists, artisans, street dancers, and muses.

They will vie for a total of P3.25 million in cash prizes by pitting skills in the Dance Parade and Float competitions and the Reyna ng Aliwan beauty pageant.

Now on its third run, Aliwan Fiesta will feature the Panagbenga Flower Festival of Baguio, Dinagyang of Iloilo, Kadayawan of Davao, Pili Festival of Sorsogon, and Pamulinawen of Ilocos Norte. Spectators will have the chance to discover other festivals such as the Kuyog a Sagayan, Meguyaya, and Sining Pakalagyan Festivals that are traditionally held in Maguindano.

Other participating festivals are the Palayukan Festival of Pasig, Manobo Festival of Marikina, Caracol Festival of Mandaluyong, Agdamdamili Festival of Ilocos Norte, Sinukwan Festival of Pampanga, Halamanan and Desposorio Festivals of Bulacan, Boling-Boling Festival of Quezon, Kahilwayan and Pintados de Passi Festivals of Iloilo, Pasaka Festival of Leyte, Pasalamat Festival of Pagadian, Sining Kagayha-an Festival of Cagayan de Oro, and Kalilangan Festival of General Santos.

Each contingent will be judged by a board of judges composed of city officials, artists and entertainers, and prominent businessmen. Winners will be awarded their prizes in front of Aliw theater on the final day.


This summer, make your name sizzle with SMART Buddy Nametagz.

SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid

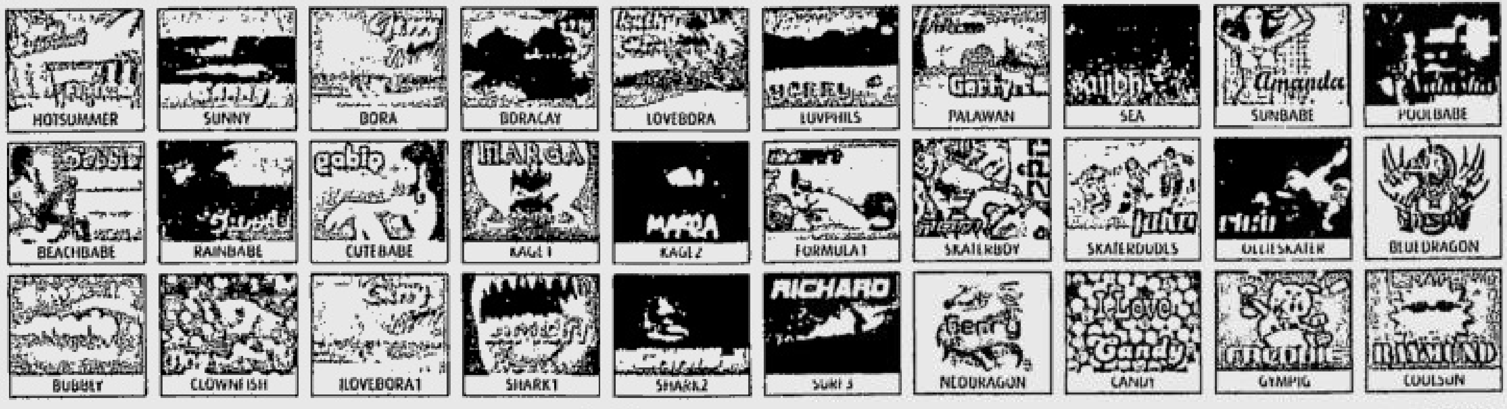
Zone downloads

Let your personality shine this summer. Grab a Nametagz logo or wallpaper from SMART Buddy. We've got so many awesome designs to choose from.

Logos! To download, text LOGO <keyword> <your name> to 2448. (Ex. LOGO ANGEL CARLA)

100PERCENT	ANGEL	BABE	BFLY	CUTEGIRL	CUTEWHALE	CUTIE	DOG	DOGGY	DOLPHIN
DRAGON2	FAIRY	FLAMES	GIRL2	ILOVE	ISLAND	KID	KIKAY	LUVBALLOON	PIRANHA
ROSE2	SPIN	SUNSMILE	TAIO	WINGSS	YINYANG	ACCENT	ANIME	ARK	BLOCKY
CLOUDS	FELIX	GIZMO	HIPHOP	HITECH	ITALIC	LITE	MAGIC	PIX	PIX2
PS2	ROBOT	ROYAL	SAMURAI	STRANGE	SWORDS	SYN	TEMPUS	TIGAS	TINY

MMS Wallpapers To download, text MMS <keyword> <name> to 2448. (Ex. MMS SUNBABE AMANDA)

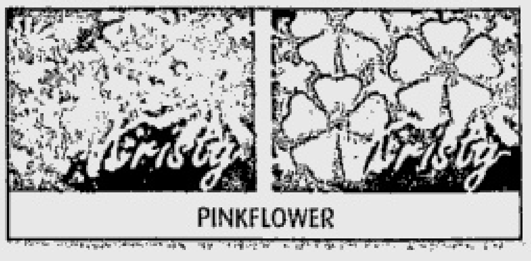


HOTSUMMER	SUNNY	BORA	BORACAY	LOVEBORA	LUVPHILS	PALAWAN	SEA	SUNBABE	POOLBABE
BEACHBABE	RAINBABE	CUTEBABE	KAGE1	KAGE2	FORMULA1	SKATERBOY	SKATERDUDES	OLLIESKATER	BLUEDRAGON
BUBBLY	CLOWNFISH	ILOVEBORA1	SHARK1	SHARK2	SURF3	NEODRAGON	CANDY	GYMPIG	COOLSUN

NEW and exclusive

Plus, you can now bring your name to life with these Animated MMS Nametagz!
To download, text TOON <keyword> <your name> to 2448. (Ex. TOON SUNGLOW MARGA)

BEFORE AFTER



PINKFLOWER

BEACHGAL	SUN	HIPPIEBOY	KAGE1
KAGE2	HAPIHAUS	SUNGLOW	COOLBOY

To get WEEKLY LOGOS,
Text NAME <your name> to 2448

To get WEEKLY MMS WALLPAPERS:
For GUYS, text MGUY <your name> to 2448
For GIRLS text MGIRL <your name> to 2448

Send NAME to 2448

Promo is from
April 17 to October 25, 2005.
Grand Draw is on October 28, 2005.

To set **GPRS** settings on your phone, text **SET GPRS**<phone model> to **211**. Ex. SET GPRS N6600. To activate **GPRS** on your phone, text **GPRS ON to 333.**
To set **MMS** settings on your phone, text **SET MMS**<phone model> to **211**. Ex. SET **MMS** N6600. To activate **MMS** on your phone, text **MMS ON** to 333.
P15 per download of logo and wallpaper. Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of FREE TEXT allocation), email us at customercare@smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Download now and you could win P1,000,000 or a P500 reload everyday!

I ♡ SMART Simply Amazing!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2011 Series of 2005.

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

BUMILI NG PETRON ULTRON O REV-X AT I-TEXT
PETRON
6B23888A/
Al Dy/
1 Dalia St.
Cubao, Q.C.
Promo Period runs from November 15, 2004 to May 15, 2005
See posters and flyers for details.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Elma still a force at 38; 3 marks fall /A26

Iverson, Sixers keep playoff hopes alive /A28

Que, Korean gain tie for Asian team /A27

A giant leap for the running kind /A30

Honeycutt lifts TNT past Purefoods in OT

PUREFOODS guard Paul Artadi rams into the defense of Talk 'N Text counterpart Jimmy Alapag (right). AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By June Navarro

JERALD Honeycutt knows the Talk 'N Text system like the palm of his hand.

And his familiarity proved enough for the Phone Pals to salvage a 100-95 overtime win over the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs and snap a two-game losing streak last night in the 2005 Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Philsports Arena.

"He (Honeycutt) knows the players and the system so we're not worried about what's going to happen on the floor," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal after the Phone Pals pulled abreast of the Red Bull Barako (4-3) in the standings.

"Hopefully, we could finish the conference with Jerald because he's the type of import that we need," added Banal, confirming that Talk 'N Text is keeping a set of imports reserved just in case an emergency arises.

GAME TODAY
(*Capiz Gymnasium, Roxas City*)
4:30 p.m.—Shell vs Sta. Lucia Realty
GAMES TOMORROW
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:15 p.m.—Alaska vs Red Bull Barako
6:35 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Talk 'N Text

The Phone Pals are looking at 7-foot-2 giant Garth Joseph, who had brief stints with the Chicago Bulls and the Denver Nuggets in the NBA, to beef them up the moment injuries take place.

Meanwhile, Dondon Hontiveros nailed two decisive three-pointers as San Miguel Beer held off a late charge by FedEx to prevail, 87-84, in the second game.

The Beermen reclaimed the solo lead with a 6-3 record while sending the Express to their fifth defeat in eight outings.

Honeycutt, who just arrived Wednesday fresh from a stint in the Korean Basketball League, replaced Noel Felix.

Absorbing their fourth straight defeat, coach Ryan Gregorio and the TJ Hotdogs fell in the lower bracket of the standings at 4-5.

The scores:

First Game

TALK N TEXT 100—Honeycutt 28, Alapag 16, Telan 14, Miller 11, Camaso 11, Pablo 7, Carey 5, Belano 5, Fran 3, Ravena 0, De Ocampo 0.

PUREFOODS 95—Simon 20, Smith 16, Yap 14, Limpot 13, Castillo 9, Raymundo 8, Evangelista 8, Artadi 7, Laure 0, Yee 0.

Quarters: 29-17, 44-44, 65-68, 87-87, 100-95.

Second Game

SAN MIGUEL 87—Seigle 28, Belasco 20, Hontiveros 16, Racela 13, Burgess 10, Lopez 0, Gamboa 0, Villoria 0, Canlas 0, Mente 0.

FEDEX 84—Miller 19, De Ocampo 17, Ritualo 14, Gonzales 11, David 5, Ferriols 5, Arboleda 5, Pingris 4, Victolero 4, Billones 0.

Quarters: 21-18, 42-43, 70-65, 87-84

Embattled Lim told: Step aside

By Marc Anthony Reyes

STEP ASIDE.

This was the advice given by athletics and chess association chief Go Teng Kok yesterday to beleaguered basketball secretary-general Graham Lim, who is being blamed for the recent disastrous showing of the Southeast Asian Games-bound national quintet.

Speaking as the BAP project director for the Asian basketball hosting in 2007, Go said it's better for Lim to "take a vacation" as BAP secretary general and let somebody else take care of the country's preparation for the Southeast Asian Games slated in November.

"I'm his friend and as far as his deportation case is concerned, I'm 100 percent behind him," Go told the INQUIRER. "But with regard to the basketball team, I think it's best for him to take a break because the country's honor is now at stake here."

Lim was ordered deported by the Bureau of Immigration last week, saying the longtime BAP official was a Taiwanese citizen.

Go's reaction came on the heels of a statement by Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco that the country's SEAG build-up "needs a lot to be desired."

Cojuangco added that he's not happy with the way BAP is conducting its selection of national players and its training program.

Lim's deportation order came right after the Philippine team training for the SEAG suffered a stinging loss to a ragtag team made up of movie stars and former pros in a low-level commercial league.

That sent an alarming signal to the basketball community which is looking forward to the country's reentry to the big league through the Asian Basketball Confederation championship.

Coach: RP five needs shooters

SHAMEFUL as it may have been, coach Boysie Zamar's message finally got through: the national basketball team has to beef up its roster. "Since the team started, *walang nakakapansin sa amin* (no one took notice of us)," said Zamar, who has been receiving numerous criticisms after his Southeast Asian Games-bound squad lost to a team laced with actors and ex-pros recently. "We need to have shooters in the team, we must develop our shooters." Ateneo's ace playmaker LA Tenorio, who's also one of the best clutch performers in the collegiate ranks, recently expressed interest in joining the RP team. Coach Chot Reyes also brought his new 6-foot-7 Fil-American recruit, Kenny Williams, to the national team's practice last Thursday. "He can play all positions," said Zamar of Williams. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Harbour Centre eyes third win vs Nenaco

GAMES TODAY
(*FEU Gym*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Nenaco-SBC
4 p.m.—Magnolia vs Granny Goose

HARBOUR Centre's thrilling back-to-back victories in the PBL Unity Cup have failed to impress coach Tonichi Yturri.

"We have to learn to play smart," said Yturri, noting his young team's tendency to blow double-digit leads. "We're (composed of) college players, we're reactionary. We must have the proper composure."

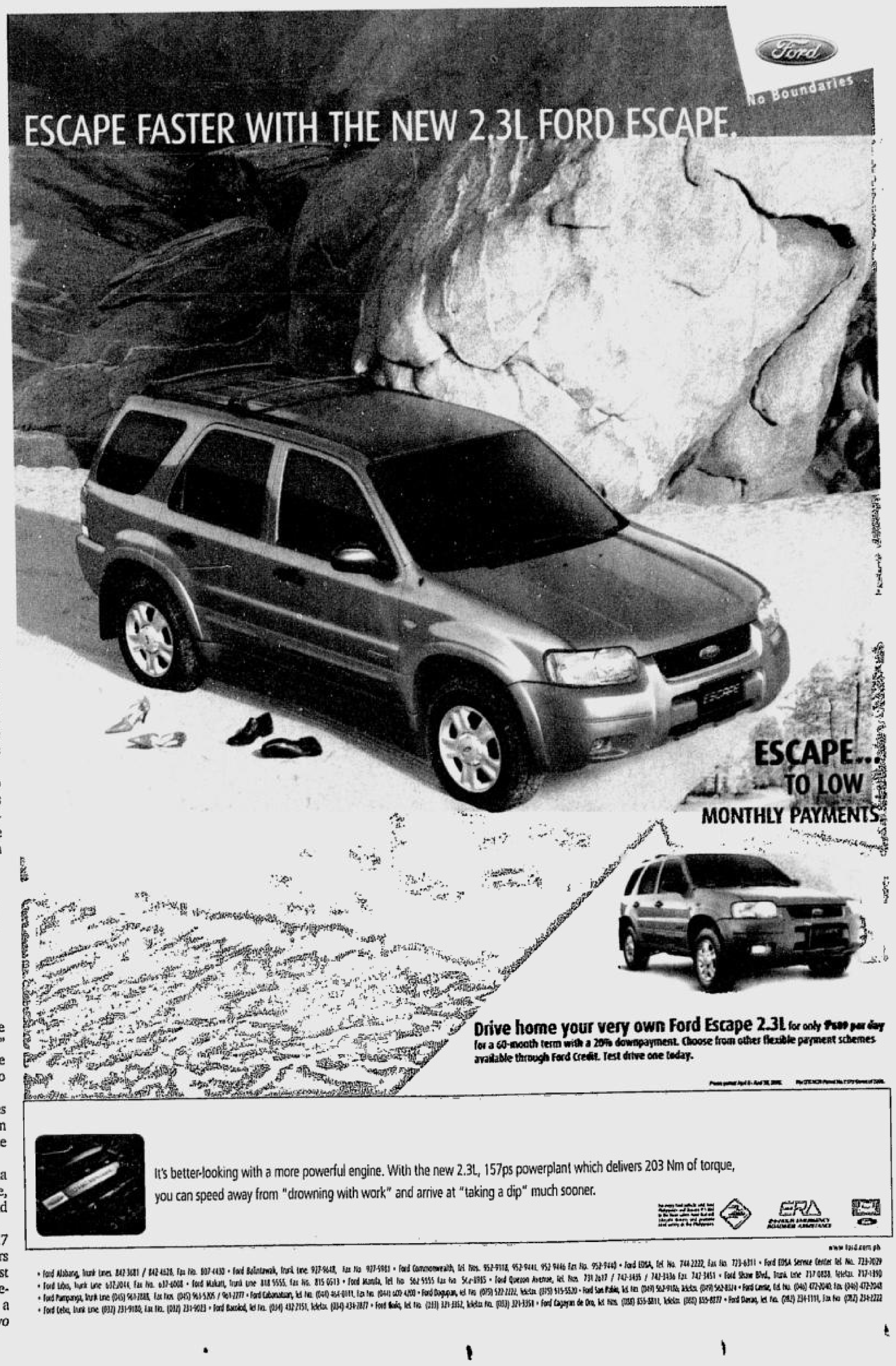
But the Portmasters are still favored to clinch their third straight victory against the winless Nenaco-San Beda, the league's latest collegiate-based squad, at 2 p.m. today at the FEU Gym.

"We're still in the honeymoon stage," added Yturri. "The boys have to learn to finish games."

Early favorites Magnolia Ice Cream and Granny Goose clash at 4 p.m.

Dynamic scorer Mac Cardona has been leading Harbour Centre, which took solo third at 2-1 behind co-leaders Montaña and Welcoat.

Cardona, who is averaging 26.7 points, bailed out the Portmasters against Toyota-Otis Letran last Tuesday, nailing a triple with one-tenth of a second remaining for a 75-73 win. *Jasmine W. Payo*


Ford
No Boundaries
ESCAPE FASTER WITH THE NEW 2.3L FORD ESCAPE.
ESCAPE... TO LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS
ERA

Drive home your very own Ford Escape 2.3L for only ₱589 per day for a 60-month term with a 20% downpayment. Choose from other flexible payment schemes available through Ford Credit. Test drive one today.

It's better-looking with a more powerful engine. With the new 2.3L, 157ps powerplant which delivers 203 Nm of torque, you can speed away from "drowning with work" and arrive at "taking a dip" much sooner.

www.ford.com.ph

Elma still a force at 38; 3 marks fall

By Musong R. Castillo

ELMA Muros-Posadas, her best years now footnotes of a fabled past, pushed her 38-year-old, battle-scarred legs hard to rule the 100-meter hurdles yesterday and overshadow three record performances on Day 2 of the 2005 Milo National Open at the Rizal Stadium.

Admittedly out of shape but with no worthy rivals in sight, the multi-awarded mother of two clocked 14.90 seconds, way off her old Southeast Asian Games mark.

"It felt kind of odd, because I gained so much weight," said Muros-Posadas, who is coming out of a four-year retirement, in Filipino. "But I can use this event to lose weight and maybe earn a slot in the SEAG in the heptathlon."

The three record-breakers Muros-Posadas outshone were hammer thrower Arneil Ferrera of the Philippine Air Force, men's high jumper Sean Guevarra and Maricel Diaz of Far Eastern University, who shattered the 22-year-old girls' 10,000-meter walk mark.

Ferrera threw the hammer to a distance of 56.74 meters, obliterating the national mark of 55.67 he set last year. He became the first double gold winner here after ruling the discus throw late Thursday with a 44.81-meter effort.

Guevarra, from Iloilo, cleared 2.17 meters in the high jump to win the gold and break the 18-year-old Philippine standard set by Luis Juico in Sacramento, California.

Diaz timed 59 minutes 29.1 seconds to smash the 1:02:06.5 mark Rosalie Quinto set in the 1983 Open.

Nueva Vizcaya State U's Florida Gonzales timed 1:01:54.7 for the silver, with Ardiennie delos Santos of Santo Tomas bagging the bronze in 1:02:21.8.

Muros-Posadas, who is employed as consultant to the athletes' advocates office chaired by Lydia de Vega-Mercado, holds the SEAG mark of 13.66 seconds for the 100-meter hurdles established in the 1991 edition of the Games in Manila.

But the victory by Elma, who is known more popularly as the longtime SEAG long jump queen, also highlighted the notoriously slow turnover of talents in the sport.

"I wish I was 18 again," joked Muros-Posadas, who beat Sheen Artilano (15.07) and Mariz Cotoner (16.50). "I want to see new faces there, winning for the Philippines."

Ralph Waldy Soquilon of TMS Shipping clocked 10.71 seconds, edging Arnold Villarube for the men's 100-meter dash gold. Maslim Faizal Sahab was third in 11.02.

Saarat Nongrudj of Thailand and Tersiana Rihu Rohi of Indonesia were the only foreigners to break through the local stranglehold, fashioning out golden performances in the women's 100 meters and 10,000-meter walk, respectively.

Nongrudj left Lerma Balauitan eating her dust, nearly matching Soquilon's effort by clocking 10.84, while Tersiana timed 53 minutes and 15.2 seconds to win the gold over the Philippine Navy's Melinda Manahan, who clocked 54:47.8.

PHILIPPINE Army's Alonzo Jardin is silhouetted against the gathering gloom as he clears the bar in the pole vault yesterday at the National Open.

MITCH MAURICIO

How Tiger's best friend won the Masters

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE FOLLOWING are excerpts from the 1998 Masters by John Feinstein, whose book, "The Majors," had just been mailed to me by Joseph A. Dumuk. Joseph is that great guy from Barangay Pagdaraoan, City of San Fernando, 2500 La Union.

* * *

... THE STAGE was clear for O'Meara. One putt to win the Masters. One putt to fulfill every golfing dream he had ever had. One putt to prove to himself once and for all that he had been right all along about his ability to close the deal on Sunday—regardless of the stakes.

He stalked the putt, seeing less break than he thought was there. He just knew there was more break than the green was showing... He stood over the putt, drew the putter back, and held his breath as the ball came off the club.

"I knew right away that it had a chance," he said. "But I was afraid to move. When it got near the hole, I saw it dying left and I thought, please, please hang on."

It did. O'Meara's arms were in the air, David Duval's stomach was upside down, and Fred Couples was saying, "You know what, that's the right way for it to end."

...Coming off the green, O'Meara looked for his family. They were nowhere to be found. Alicia O'Meara had tried to get inside the ropes with her two children, but they had been stopped by security people. A year earlier, those same security people had cleared the way for Earl Woods and Hughes Norton (an agent, for crying out loud) but now they blocked the O'Mearas. It wasn't until O'Meara had signed his card and walked behind the scorer's tent that he got to see his family. They cried. He didn't. "I was still in shock," he said.

While O'Meara was whisked to Butler Cabin for the televised green jacket ceremony, Duval was taken to the interview room. His stomach and head were pounding. But he handled himself remarkably well, especially when someone asked him if he felt he had lost the Masters, having a three-shot lead with three to play.

"Pards," Duval said evenly, "I shot sixty-seven on Sunday at the Masters. The guy who won birdied three of the last four holes. I feel I gave it everything I had to give."

That didn't lessen the pain. The same was true for Couples. He knew that only two players before O'Meara—Art Wall in 1959 and Arnold Palmer in 1960—had birdied the last two holes to win the Masters. He had seen O'Meara make putt after putt down the stretch. But until the moment that O'Meara made his putt on 18; losing had never really occurred to him.

Duval and Couples both went out to dinner with the people who had been down for the week. Sitting in the quaint restaurant at the Partridge Inn, Couples felt a little bit like the widow at a funeral. Everyone was on eggshells. "I finally told them all to quit worrying about me, that I was fine. I mean, I felt awful. I played well but didn't win. There just wasn't anything more to say about it."

Duval's friends kept trying to cheer him up by reminding him how well he played. He put a hand up. "Guys, I know what you're trying to do and I appreciate it," he said. "But you know what? There's nothing you can say that will make me feel better. Not a single thing."

...In the TV ceremony, (Tiger) Woods, the Masters champion the year before, had struggled, holding the green jacket up so high that O'Meara almost pulled a muscle reaching for it. Now he got it just right. The jacket, 44-regular, carried to the putting green as always by Arthur Williams, the club's *maitre d'*, felt absolutely perfect as Woods slipped it over O'Meara's shoulders.

...Mark O'Meara looked around him at all the people, felt the green jacket on his shoulders, and said the most eloquent thing he could think of at that moment in his life:

"Wow."

* * *

Well, to Joseph A. Dumuk for his latest gargantuan move of sending me another book on golf, what can I say?

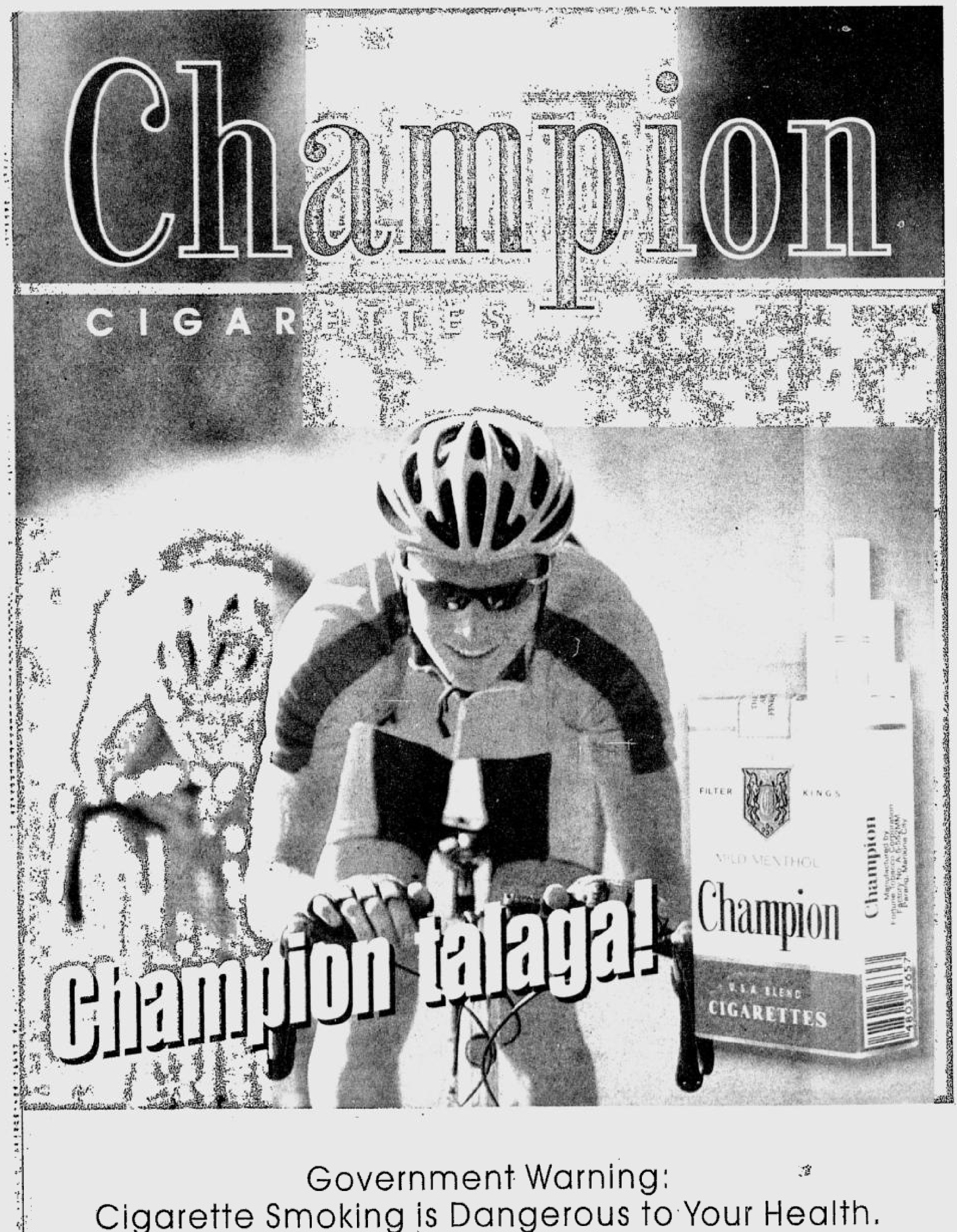
"Wow."

Amonsot knocks out Indon in 4th round

RISING Filipino featherweight Caesar Amonsot stopped Syamsul Hidayat of Indonesia in the fourth round of their 10-round bout last Tuesday at the RCTI TV Studio in Jakarta.

The power-punching Amonsot, the No. 2 RP featherweight contender, raised his record to eight wins with seven KOs against a loss and a draw (with ex-IBF Pan-Pacific lightweight champ Joey De Ricardo last March 22, also in Jakarta).

Amonsot's only loss came at the hands of Simson Butar Butar last Feb. 15, when the referee stopped the fight prematurely after the Filipino absorbed shots to the face. *Salven L. Lagumbay*



Government Warning:
Cigarette Smoking is Dangerous to Your Health.

THE PHILIPPINES' Angelo Que (extreme right, seated) poses for posterity with the rest of the members of Team Asia who are battling the stars of the Japanese Tour in the Visa Dynasty Cup at Mission Hills Golf Club in Shenzhen, China. (Front row, from left) Zhang Lian-wei, Mo Joong-Kyung, assistant captain Kyi Hla Han, nonplaying captain Hsieh Min-nan, Thongchai Jaidee, Prayad Marksaeng, Que. (Back row, same order) Jyoti Randhawa, Liang Wen-chong, Thaworn Wiratchant, Thammanoon Srirot, Boonchu Ruangkit, Mardan Mamat, Amandeep Johl. AFP

Que, Korean gain tie for Asian team

SHENZHEN, China—Dynasty Cup rookies Angelo Que of the Philippines and Mo Joong-kyung of South Korea proved to be the heroes of the day for the Asian team at Mission Hills Golf Club on Friday.

Que and Mo recorded a brave half point in their foursome match against Japan's Toru Suzuki and Tetsuji Hiratsuka at the start of the Ryder Cup-style showdown.

Six foursome matches were played yesterday and it looked as if the Japanese team would finish the day by claiming four of them, with Asia taking two.

However, Que and Mo came from two holes down with three to play to tie the match, giving Japan just a slim 3.5-2.5 lead.

Scoring for Japan were Kase Hideki and Ryoken Kawagishi over Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchat and Srirot Thammanoon (5 and 4),Tomohiro Kondo and Takuya Taniguchi over Thongchai Jaidee and Mardan Mamat (5 and 3) and Katsumata Miyamoto and Hirouiki Fujita over India's Jyoti Randhawa and Amadeep Johl (3 and 2).

The winners on the Asian side were China's Zhang Lianwei and Liang Wengchong over Shigeki Maruyama and Keiichiro Fukabori (2 and 1) and Thais Bonchu Ruangkit and Prayad Marksaeng over Shingo Katayama and Takashi Kamiyama (3 and 2).

The Asians birdied the par-five 16th, where Que chipped to four feet and watched his partner hole out, before Mo nailed a 20-foot birdie putt on the following hole to draw even. On the 18th Que had a chance to win the match but his birdie attempt from 15 feet came up short. *AFP*

Peping eyes lifetime pension

IF PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco will have his way, all Filipino athletes who represented the country in all international competitions should enjoy lifetime pensions and live in their own houses.

"This is what I would like to happen to our athletes by way of repaying them for the services they rendered to our country through their athletic talents," Cojuangco said during the SCOOP Awards Rites held Thursday in conjunction with the Philippine Olympians Association general assembly.

Cojuangco said he will ask Congress to enact a law that would grant pension to national athletes, adding that he is also toying with the idea of establishing an Olympic Village where these national athletes, past and present, can be housed.

The Olympic Village could be something like the Gawad Kalinga projects.

NCR elims kick off Streetball Challenge

THE 10TH adidas Streetball Challenge takes center stage beginning today with some 125 teams vying in the National Capital Region eliminations at SM Megamall.

Games will start 8:30 a.m. at the Parking Lot C of SM Megamall with the final to be held tomorrow at the Megamall Atrium.

The winner makes it to the national championships where a crack at the elite Asian Finals is at stake.

Meanwhile, McDonald's, a long-time partner of adidas Streetball, will be doing face-painting for kids for free while Gentxt cardholders will also get free glimmer tattoos.

This weekend's event serves as the kick-off leg of a four-month long, countrywide competition in the extreme half-court game of street basketball, which features Pocket Tournaments for the seniors and girls divisions in Naga, Lipa, San Fernando, Pampanga, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga, and Big Legs in NCR, Baguio, Cebu and Davao.

Co-presented by Globe Gentxt, the 10th adidas Streetball Challenge 2005 is backed by McDonald's, Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers chocolate bars, Coppertone, adidas fragrance and body care, Blue Angel alcohol, Milo, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, adidas eyewear and Yehey.com.

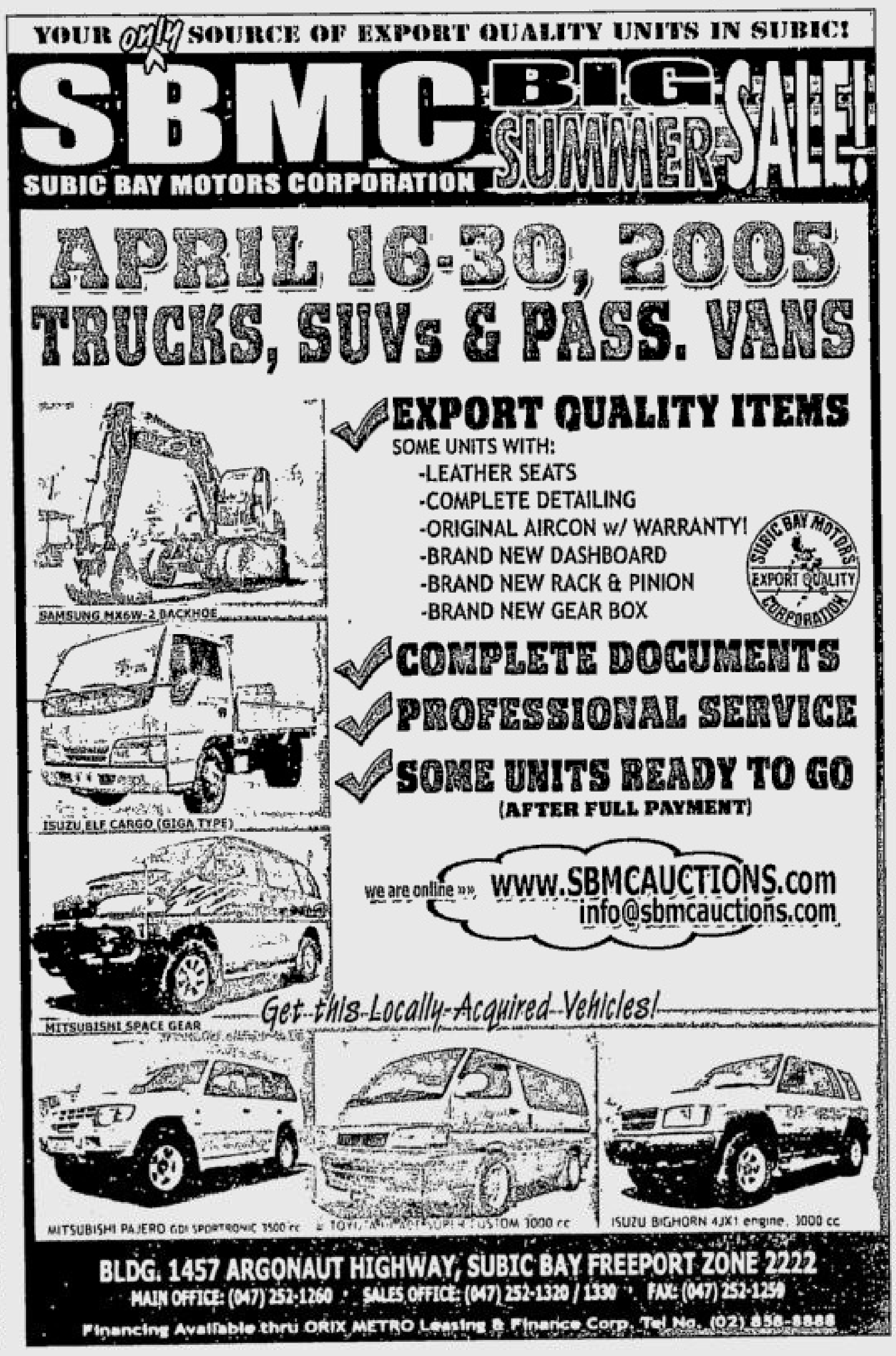
For details, contact Team Ventures at 522-5953 or 400-9745.

After the NCR Big Leg qualifier, action will resume on April 22 at the Ateneo de Naga for the first pocket tournament.

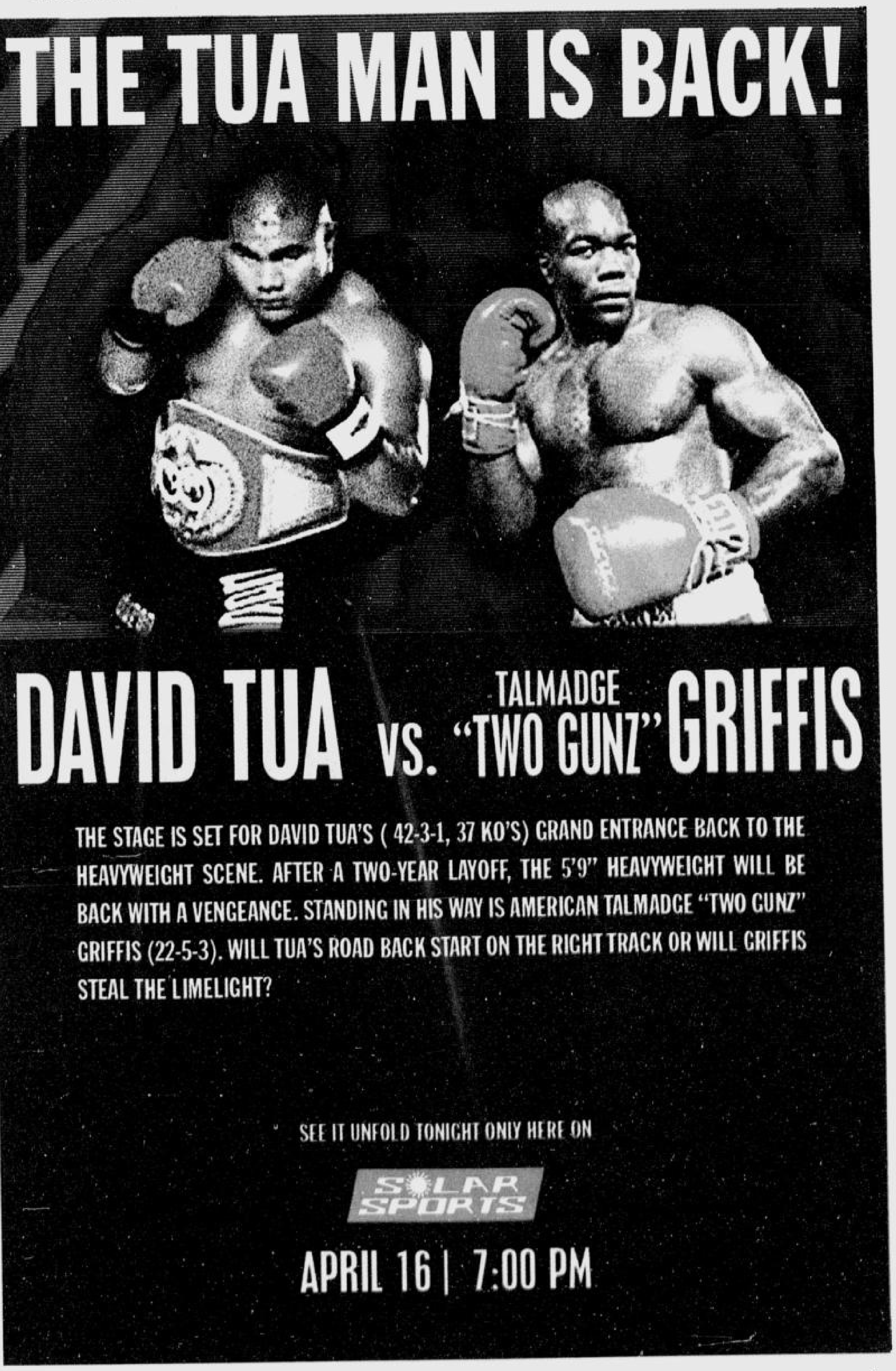
The Visayas phase begins on May 20 at the University of San Agustin.

Streetball action swings to Mindanao on June 24 at the Pelaez gym in Cagayan de Oro.

MICROVAN
(02) 984-0278/79
MEGA SALE!
on April 22, 2005 • STARTS AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP



YOUR only SOURCE OF EXPORT QUALITY UNITS IN SUBIC!
SBMC BIG SUMMER SALE!
SUBIC BAY MOTORS CORPORATION
APRIL 16-30, 2005
TRUCKS, SUVs & PASS. VANS
✓EXPORT QUALITY ITEMS
SOME UNITS WITH:
-LEATHER SEATS
-COMPLETE DETAILING
-ORIGINAL AIRCON w/ WARRANTY!
-BRAND NEW DASHBOARD
-BRAND NEW RACK & PINION
-BRAND NEW GEAR BOX
✓COMPLETE DOCUMENTS
✓PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
✓SOME UNITS READY TO GO
(AFTER FULL PAYMENT)
we are online »» www.SBMCAUCTIONS.com
info@sbmcauctions.com
Get this Locally-Acquired Vehicles!
BLDG. 1457 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE 2222
MAIN OFFICE: (047) 252-1260 • SALES OFFICE: (047) 252-1320 / 1330 • FAX: (047) 252-1250
Financing Available thru ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp. Tel No. (02) 858-8888
SUBIC BAY MOTORS CORPORATION
EXPORT QUALITY
SAMSUNG MX6W-2 BACKHOE
ISUZU ELF CARGO (GIGA TYPE)
MITSUBISHI SPACE GEAR
MITSUBISHI PAJERO GDI SPORTRONIC 3500 cc
SUPER CUSTOM 3000 cc
ISUZU BIGHORN 4JX1 engine. 3000 cc



THE TUA MAN IS BACK!
DAVID TUA VS. TALMADGE "TWO GUNZ" GRIFFIS
THE STAGE IS SET FOR DAVID TUA'S (42-3-1, 37 KO'S) GRAND ENTRANCE BACK TO THE HEAVYWEIGHT SCENE. AFTER A TWO-YEAR LAYOFF, THE 5'9" HEAVYWEIGHT WILL BE BACK WITH A VENGEANCE. STANDING IN HIS WAY IS AMERICAN TALMADGE "TWO GUNZ" GRIFFIS (22-5-3). WILL TUA'S ROAD BACK START ON THE RIGHT TRACK OR WILL GRIFFIS STEAL THE LIMELIGHT?
SEE IT UNFOLD TONIGHT ONLY HERE ON
SOLAR SPORTS
APRIL 16 | 7:00 PM

PORTLAND's Joel Przybilla (right) blocks Dallas center Shawn Bradley. REUTERS

Iverson, Sixers keep playoff hopes alive

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson carried Philadelphia in regulation, Andre Iguodala took over in overtime Thursday as the Philadelphia 76ers overcame a career-high 48 points from Dwyane Wade to beat the Miami Heat 126-119 and move up in the Eastern Conference standings.

"It's like a do or die situation," Iverson said. "A loss here or there and we could be out of the playoffs. We understand that. It just says a lot about us."

Iverson scored 38 points and Iguodala added 19, helping the Sixers spoil the return of Shaquille O'Neal with the overtime win.

Marc Jackson scored 26 and Kyle Korver 20 for the Sixers, who won for the fifth time in six games. With Cleveland's 95-89 loss to New York, the Sixers (40-38) moved into a tie for seventh in the East standings. Philadelphia, though, holds the tiebreaker with three wins over the Cavaliers.

"We had a chance to put them away," Wade said. "They are a team playing for their playoff lives and you could see that tonight."

O'Neal returned after missing three games with a stomach ailment and viral infection that left him unable to eat for several days.

In Cleveland, Jamal Crawford scored 25 points and Maurice Taylor had 16, including 11 in the fourth quarter, as the New York Knicks damaged the Cavaliers' playoff chances with a 95-89 victory.

In Portland, Oregon, Jerry Stackhouse scored 18 points, and the Dallas Mavericks beat the woeful Trail Blazers, 102-90, even without Dirk Nowitzki.

Nowitzki, who scored 31 points in the Mavericks' 95-90 victory over Seattle on Wednesday, did not play because of a sore left shoulder. He leads Dallas with averages of 26.3 points and 9.9 rebounds. *AP*

PINT-SIZED Philadelphia star Allen Iverson (right)

Nowitzki's star soars even higher

DALLAS—Check out the NBA's top 10 scorers and rebounders, and only one name is found on both lists: Germany's Dirk Nowitzki.

Scan the winners of the Western Conference's player of the month award, and he's the only person honored twice. Then look at the standings and see that his Dallas Mavericks have racked up another 50-win season and home court advantage in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

It all adds up to one conclusion: At 26, and in his seventh season since arriving from Germany with a new-wave haircut and unlimited potential, Nowitzki is taking the final step from star to superstar, and inching closer to the stratosphere of the league's best power forwards, two-time MVP Tim Duncan and last year's MVP, Kevin Garnett.

But to truly appreciate Nowitzki's rise, you must understand the circumstances. What's turned out to be his best season could have been his worst, considering he's without two of the most instrumental figures in his development, point guard and close friend Steve Nash, and Don Nelson, who until last month was Nowitzki's only NBA coach.

When Nash called with the news of the trade, Nowitzki was back home in Germany, working as he does every off season with his personal coach-mentor, Holger Geschwindner. Coincidentally, they already had been focusing on his one-on-one game.

"I knew once Steve left that I'd have to work harder on everything," Nowitzki said.

Nowitzki was considered one of the toughest players to guard before his transformation. Now he's made it even more difficult.

"Used to be you'd rather him do this or that. Now, I don't know what it is," Rudy Tomjanovich said in January, when he was still coaching the Los Angeles Lakers and they were about to face Nowitzki.

After seeing Nowitzki get 41 points and 10 rebounds against his team in November, Miami Heat coach Stan Van Gundy was left with a defeatist's strategy for their February rematch.

"Hope he misses," Van Gundy said. *AP*

Villaceran, Hipolito eye Epson finals

ELITE players Melody Villaceran and Jojo Hipolito aim for a championship ticket in the semifinals of the Epson Cup 2 badminton tournament today at the Greenhills Badminton Center.

Villaceran and Hipolito breezed past their elimination round opponents and topped the Class A ladies doubles division to advance into the crossover semifinals.

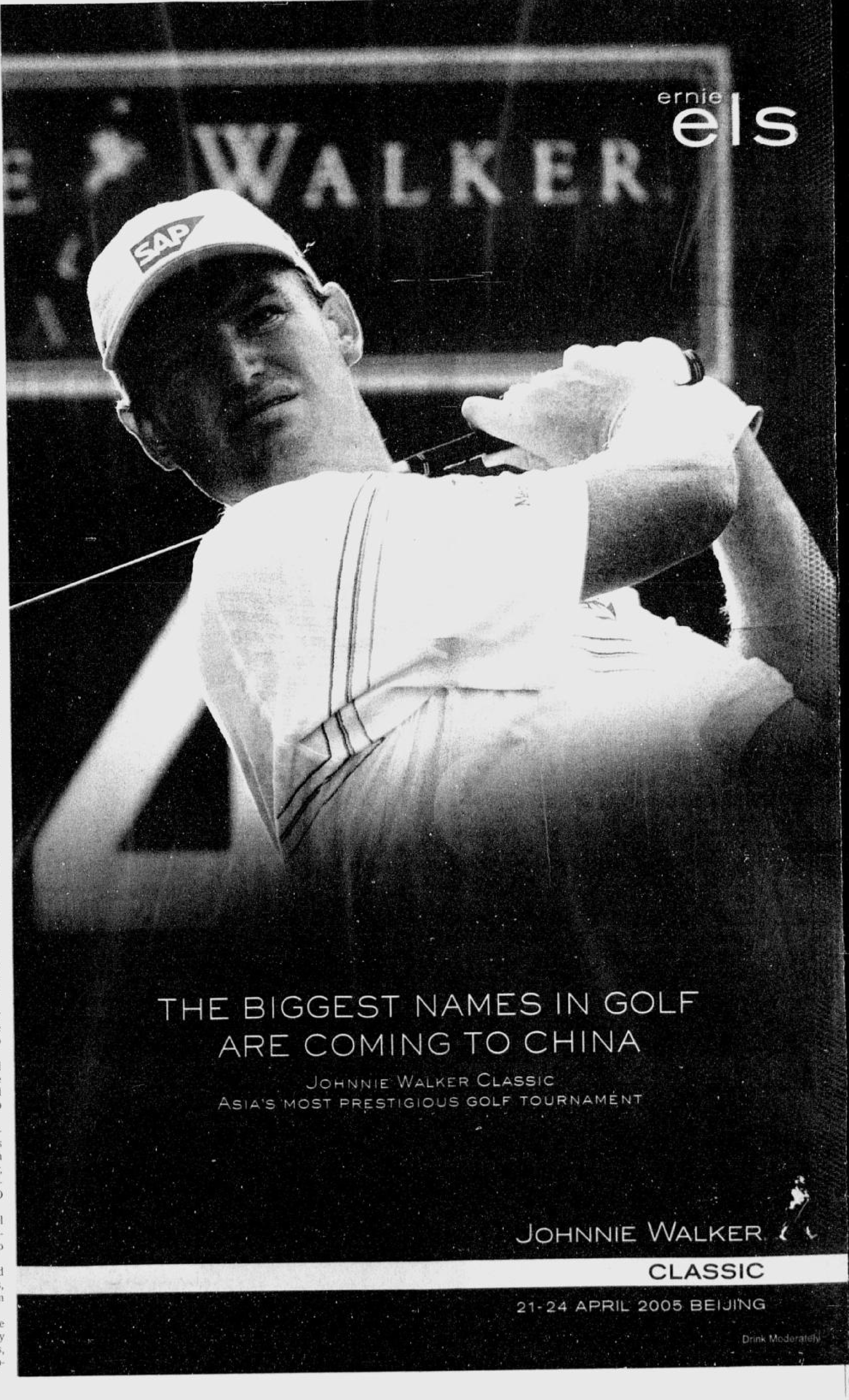
Unbeaten in three games, Villaceran and Hipolito try to extend their streak against the fourth-seeded tandem of Boots Quilala and Eleanor Tesorero in a bid to secure a seat into the Finals.

In the other ladies Final Four pairing, second-ranked Kathy Kuan and Cathy Escasinas face Wowie Agustin and Susan Luminarias in the event sponsored by Shell, Apple Center, Konica, Fitness First, Ridgewood Hotel-Baguio, PBNet, Yehey.com, BHM and UNO Magazine.

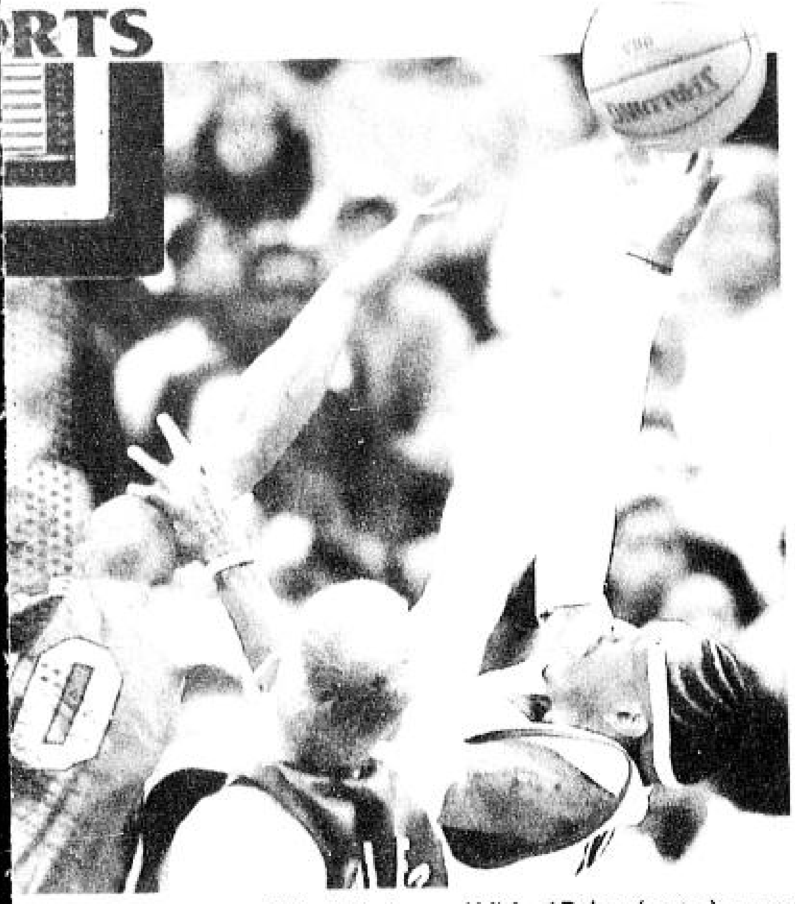
Pre-tournament Alex Cuevas and Renel Bernaldo are also hoping to barge into the Finals of the Class A men's doubles when they go up against Jere Fregil and Anthony Samonte.

Gener Godoy and Alex Bartolay, who landed second in the rankings after the eliminations, meet Gabby Nepomuceno and Jeff Tablante in the other men's semifinal clash.

Epson Cup 2 is sanctioned by the Philippine Badminton Association and also supported by Wilson, Citibank, Badminton Philippines, Chowking Madison Square, Mizuno, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Magic 89.9 and 99.5 RT.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE



oars over Miami big men Udonis Haslem and Michael Doleac (center). REUTERS

Bush throws first pitch in Nationals' home game

WASHINGTON—With a hasty windup followed by a pitch that sailed above a generous strike zone, President George W. Bush opened the Washington Nationals' inaugural home game and ended the city's major league baseball drought of more than three decades on Thursday.

Bush emerged from the dugout in a red Nationals jacket to mostly cheers, some boos, and lots of camera flashes. Waving to the crowd, he walked straight to the mound and promptly threw a high pitch toward home plate. Nationals catcher Brian Schneider reached up and snatched the ball cleanly, sparking more cheers.

Joe Grzenda, the last pitcher in the Washington Senators' final home game in 1971, provided the ball he had used in that final game.

The president walked back across the diamond to another round of cheers from fans packed into 46,000-seat RFK Stadium. He waved and smiled before disappearing into the dugout.

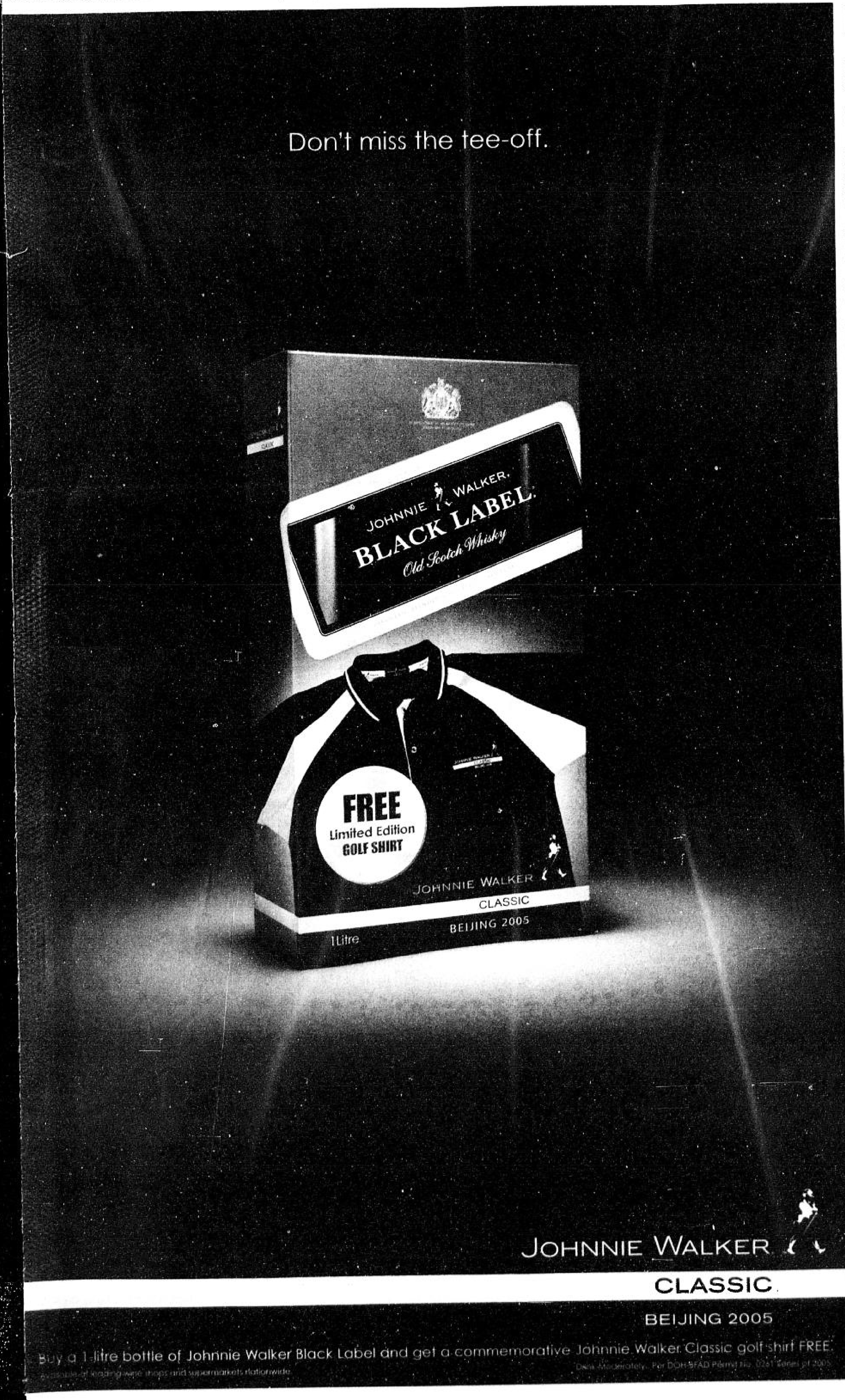
Bush watched the game from a box behind home plate with MLB commissioner Bud Selig, first lady Laura Bush, daughter Jenna and others. He left the ballpark after watching five innings of the Nationals' 5-3 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Under a blue sky and mild temperatures, Bush executed the ceremonial first toss with the skill of a guy who knows baseball. He was a part-owner of the Texas Rangers before running for governor of Texas.

According to White House spokesperson Scott McClellan, Bush practiced his windup before traveling to Rome last week, and most recently on Wednesday. He and Schneider had a private warm-up session at the stadium on Thursday.

Earlier Thursday, Bush told a newspaper editors meeting in Washington: "I've got a decision to make today. Do I go with a fastball or a slider?" *AP*

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush throws the ceremonial first pitch during the Washington Nationals home opener. REUTERS


Don't miss the tee-off.

JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK LABEL Old Scotch Whisky

FREE Limited Edition GOLF SHIRT

JOHNNIE WALKER CLASSIC BEIJING 2005
1 Litre

JOHNNIE WALKER
CLASSIC
BEIJING 2005

Buy a 1-litre bottle of Johnnie Walker Black Label and get a commemorative Johnnie Walker Classic golf shirt FREE.
Available at leading wine shops and supermarkets nationwide.
Drink Moderately. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0261 Series of 2005

Hot Federer gains Monte quarterfinals

MONTE CARLO, Monaco—Roger Federer, off to the best start to an ATP season in 21 years, extended his winning streak to 25 Thursday with a three-set victory over Fernando Gonzalez at the Monte Carlo Masters.

The top-ranked Swiss star dropped a set but still beat the Chilean, 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-4, to improve his record to 35-1 this year. John McEnroe started the 1984 season with 39 straight wins.

In late matches, Juan Carlos Ferrero topped Marat Safin, 6-2, 6-4, and Rafael Nadal easily beat Olivier Rochus of Belgium, 6-1, 6-2.

Federer was leading 6-5 in the second set when a shot by Gonzalez was called out, giving him an apparent match point. But Federer said the shot was in and agreed to replay the point, which Gonzalez then won.

Gonzalez went on to win the set in a tiebreaker. Federer broke Gonzalez in the seventh game of the final set.

"I played well but couldn't close out the match," Federer said. "It's a bit worrying but if I keep on winning it's okay."

Federer will face Richard Gasquet of France in the quarterfinals. The 18-year-old upset Nikolay Davydenko of Russia, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

"He looks like a good player. He is similar to me," Federer said of Gasquet. "People expected too much of him too soon, so I can sympathize with what he went through."

Federer has won 18 straight finals and is looking to win his third straight Masters title. His only loss this year came to Safin.

Safin smashed a racket and argued with himself throughout his loss to Ferrero. *AP*

Jao sweeps Shell races

DEFENDING champion Jolet Jao swept both races in the kickoff of the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes Series recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Barangay Maligaya, Rosario, Batangas.

Jao, eyeing his ninth road bike crown, led early in the race and claimed the checkered flag with a wide margin over his rivals in this event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA).

Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex proved to be Jao's closest rival as he stuck close in the early goings of the morning race. But the defending champion hit the fastest lap time of 1:39.981 on the sixth lap to pull away and wrap up the 10-lap race in 22:52.218.

Mendoza grabbed the runner-up honors as he checked in a far 18.676 seconds later while comebacking Roderick Chua clocked 23:34.671 for third place in the event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Toyota Motors Philippines, Aeromed, Kilton Motors, Denso and MOF Company.

Nat'l duckpin stakes ₱.4 M

GIFT certificates and trophies worth P400,000 will be up for grabs in the 30th Grand National and 11th National Youth duckpin bowling championships from April 22 to May 1 at the Marketplace Bowling Center along Kalentong St., Mandaluyong City.

Philippine Duckpin Bowling Council president Inez G. Magbual said events are team for men and ladies, single (ABC) for men and ladies, Masters for men and ladies, Youth (10 to 16 years old) and Senior for men and women (60 years and above).

Competition will start on Friday, April 22 but the formal opening ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 23. Highlight of the opening rites is the selection of Miss PHIDBC.

The Youth competition will be held for only one day—from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on April 23.

PHIDBC will hold its general assembly and election on Friday, April 28 at 6 p.m.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Intelligent shoe

A giant leap for the running kind

MIND GAME: Innovation team head Bob Lucas kept the shoe under wraps for three and a half years.

By Ted S. Melendres

THE BRAINS behind the invention swear it's like a science project.

Imagine you're about one-third through a 5-kilometer foot race and the pavement ahead keeps getting harder and harder with every single stride you make. You break a stride and fix your shoes in, say two seconds, then off you go again.

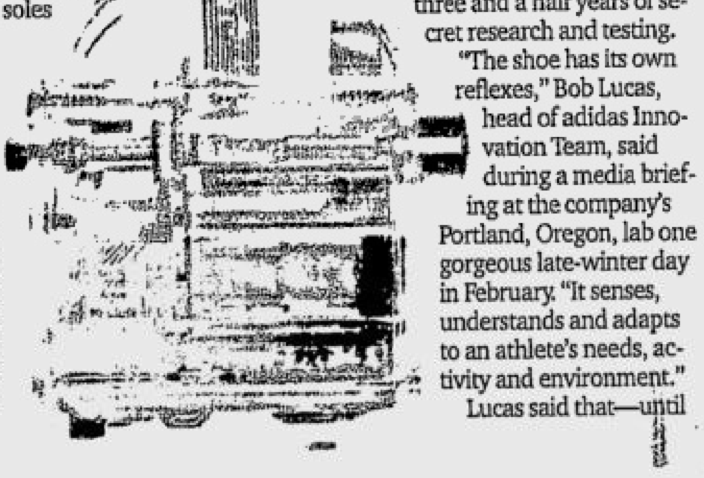
In exactly four more strides, the pavement changes from hard to bearable to pleasantly bouncy. The pressure on your soles eases and your stride becomes more fluid, more purposeful again.

One for Ripley's?

Perhaps not. At least the people at the global sports shoe and apparel giant adidas concede the state-of-the-art adidas_1 is a product that's ahead of its time. It is a fact that, save for rubber-soled shoes which the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) might have designed for astronauts, there has never been a pair that is intelligent, unbelievably light for its kind, and compact.

adidas_1 is the world's first intelligent shoe, a product of three and a half years of secret research and testing.

"The shoe has its own reflexes," Bob Lucas, head of adidas Innovation Team, said during a media briefing at the company's Portland, Oregon, lab one gorgeous late-winter day in February. "It senses, understands and adapts to an athlete's needs, activity and environment."



THE COIN-SIZED motor imbedded in the shoe spins at a rate faster than the rotors of a Blackhawk helicopter.

Lucas said that—until yesterday's launch of the shoe—no one else outside his small, close-knit unit knew about what they were developing for more than three years.

Here's how adidas_1 works. The shoe comes to life when you slip it on. The sensor within it recognizes the pressure in your every step. It understands that your needs change when you move faster or slower, or when the ground gets harder or softer beneath your feet. And it continually adapts its cushioning to your perfect level of comfort and performance at all times.

Sensing system

The shoe's sensing system—a chip—detects even the minutest change in the magnetic field underneath the sole, in effect measuring the amount of compression. At the adidas lab, the challenge was to build a system that could keep a runner's preferred compression zone.

"The finding of that zone was critical," said Christian DiBenedetto, leader of the intelligent product team. "We knew that a system had to sense how much compression there was, understand if it was too much or too little, then adapt itself properly to get in the zone."

Lucas said the sensor is accurate to the width of a human hair.

And, according to electromechanical engineer Mark Oleson, the shoe's processor can perform up to 20,000 operations in the time it takes your brain to realize your hand is touching a hot stove. It is 2,000 times faster than a human's knee-jerk reaction.

Faster than Blackhawk's

Armed with high-speed cameras, treadmills, circuit boards and computers, the wizards at the Portland lab determined that the shoe's motor—which runs on a single ordinary watch battery with a lifespan of 100 hours—spins at a rate faster than the rotors of a Blackhawk helicopter.

"The shoe is truly amazing," gushed Angelica Suiza, marketing director at adidas Philippines, who joined Filipino sportswriters in Portland. "There's never been anything like this before, that's why we're enthusiastic about its arrival in the Philippine market."

Suiza recognizes the strength of the running fever in the country and looks forward to introducing the shoe among both leisure and serious runners.

"We have received a lot of orders since October last year (when adidas Phils. got word that the adidas_1 would finally be launched)," she said in February. "We believe it's going to be a smash hit."

The shoe comes in one color combination for both men and women, basic gold and off-white. But its price may be stiff for the ordinary runner: P14,995.

It is available in adidas brand stores at Gateway, Glorietta, the Podium, Rockwell and adidas Sports Kamp in Global City, Taguig.

WORLD MEET

3 more RP jins fall in Madrid

MADRID—A series of misfortunes wiped out all three RP-Petron taekwondo bets Thursday in the World Championships at the Palacio De Deportes here.

Olympian Tshomlee Go again fell prey to his old Iranian tormer[illegible] Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Dax Al[illegible]o Morfe was at the receiving end of a bad decision, while Aphrodite Brillantes suffered a career-threatening injury.

Morfe, picked by organizers as a medal contender in the middleweight class, overcame a roundhouse kick on the face by Venezuelan Jimenez Kleiver in the second round on the way to securing a tight 7-6 victory.

Or so the jubilant Filipino contingent thought.

But to their dismay, Morfe, while waiting for his second match at the warm-up area, was approached by his opponent together with the organizing staff and informed him that the result of the fight was reversed by the arbitration committee in favor of his Venezuelan foe.

Head of delegation Noli Gabriel and coaches Jesus Morales III, Noel Veneracion and Stephen Fernandez immediately filed a counter protest only to be turned down.

The panel ruled that the referee failed to make a standing count on Morfe when the Filipino was hit in the face. In such a case, the result should have been a knockout win in favor of the Venezuelan.

"How can they say our player was KO'd when he was still on his feet and even picked up two points?" said Gabriel.

Philippine Taekwondo Association vice president Hong Sung-chon, who heads the technical committee, blew his top over the decision.

Upon Hong's instruction, the coaching staff filed a protest addressed directly to the World Taekwondo Association (WTA) president.

The loss was painful for Morfe, who was hoping to win in the meet as a gift to his soon-to-be wife, former RP jin Margarita Bonifacio.

Go fought Khodad Behrad on even terms, but with 30 seconds left in the third round, the Iranian landed a kick that caught the Athens Olympic veteran on the left side of the body. It proved to be the winning point.

The rookie Brillantes dislocated her right knee following a bad landing during her match against Ergen Ulku of Turkey. The Turkish was ahead, 8-3, when the referee stopped the bout.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

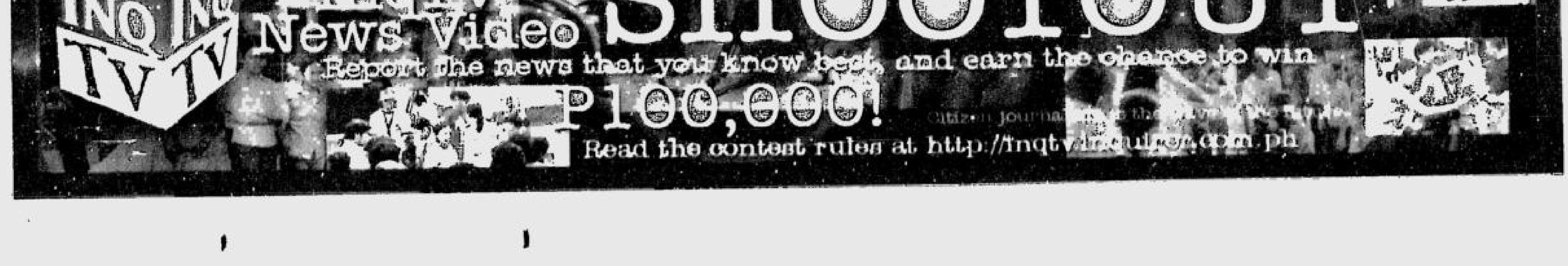
Saturday April 16, 2005

ABANGAN!
May Tama kaya Mas Mali!
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek				Y Speak		Nginig: The Hidden Files		Star Dance			TV Patrol World	Magandang Gabi Bayan		Star Cinema Presents				Kontrobersyal
ABC 5	Trip Ko To	The Basketball Show		Soccer Showdown		Loren		Dinastsahan		Viva Box Office				Sing Galing		Maverick & Ariel	Onstage	Tales Of Horror	
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos		Extra Challenge		Imbestigador		Idol Ko Si Kap			Money Talks	
RPN 9			Biyaheng Langit		Kids TV	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami							
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Retro TV	Good Take	Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop		Sea Games				Bitag		In This Corner		Ugnayang Pambansa	
JackTV		WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Wwe Heat		Wow		Slamball		UFC Recall				Thunder Box	
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	1, 2, 3	Snick: Unfabulous (New)/All Grown Up/ My Dad The Rock Star/Drake & Josh				Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Presents		Top Of The Pops	MYX Remakes	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Club MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		MYX Live!	
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Temptation Island		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer Eye For The Straight		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Cinema One	Bakit Kay Tagal Ng Sandali				Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon				My Movie				Babangon Ang Huling Patak Ng Dugo				All My Life		
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Sports TV	Mr. Bean	7th Heaven	Gilmore Girls (7:45 PM)		The Bachelor (8:40 PM)		Studio 23 Present				Reel Deal
AXN		The Animal				Global Adventure		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	E Buzz	30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	Ripley's Believe It or Not		CSI: NY (Season I)		Spider-Man			
Star World	Action Man	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Miami Vice		Adventure Inc		Roswell		Dark Angel		TNA Xplosion		Most Incredible Animal Rescues/ Saturday Shockumentaries		Dog The Bounty Hunter	Cops	The Kumars At No. 42	Goodness Gracious Me
CNN	Diplomatic License	World News	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	CNN Business Traveler	World News	Design 360	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart, Global Edition	CNN Presents: A Rising Tide, The Threat Of Global Warming	
National Geographic		Big Bite Nite				Battle For The Beaches		Creature Feature				Be The Creature		The Snake Wranglers	Wildlife Diary	Big Bite Nite			
Solar Sports						WTA Dubai Duty Free Women's Open '05				Sports Desk	Koty Magazine	KOTV Classics		NBA Game Clippers @ Suns					NBA Inside Stuff
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	Beni Maxwell Show	Royalty A-Z		Modern Girl's Guide	El True Hollywood Story		Look For Less	Behind The Velvet Ropes
HBO				City By The Sea				Excess Baggage (5:50 PM)			Fair Game			Mystic River				Six Feet Under 4:3 Can I Come Up Now?	
Star Movies	Femme Fatale (2:25 PM)			Saving Jessica Lynch (4:10 PM)			Snow Dogs (5:45 PM)				The Replacement Killers			Johnny English			Nine Months		
Cartoon Network		The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Swat Kats	Duck Dodgers	Xiaolin Showdown	Winx Club	Atomic Betty	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy				Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Duck Dodgers	Codename Kids Next Door	Samurai Jack	Xiaolin Showdown
ESPN	Premier Snooker League '05				Marshall's World Skating Chall.			Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				Classic Boxing: Heavyweight Title Fights mid 60's		NBA Game Cavaliers @ Washington			World Pool Masters '04 Aan Zee, Holland		
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina, The Animated Series	The Legend Of Tarzan	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Phil Of The Future	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			Dave The Barbarian	Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax			Free Willy				Dead Silence				The Tuxedo (7:20 PM)			Flatliners				The Skulls III (10:55PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Changi		Chang/Tattoo, A Love Story				Midsomer Murders: Death Of A Stranger				Last Call			Wedding Daze (10:35PM)				
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Science Frontiers		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery				Rides		The New Detectives		Extreme Discovery	
Sports Plus								Italia Serie A highlights 11		Bikini Destination		World's Greatest Auto Shows		Strongman		MCI Heritage Day2			
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision			GSIS Member's Hour		Yan Ang Pinoy		Gold & Glory In Greece		Search For The 1st Tanduay Billiards Player		To Be Announced			Business & Leisure		

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


INQ TV
The InqTV News Video SHOOTOUT
Report the news that you know best, and earn the chance to win P100,000!
Read the contest rules at http://inqtv.inquirer.com.ph

TOURING CAR TILT

Coseteng top of class

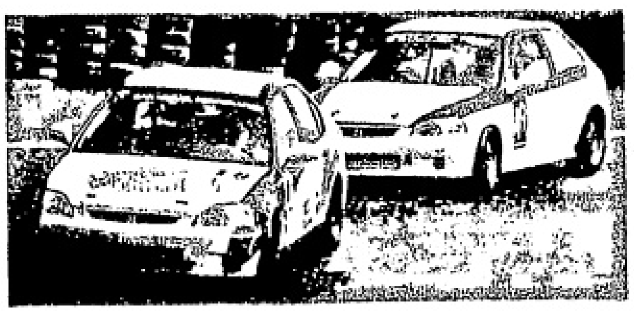
SAN MIGUEL Beer driver Jody Coseteng used sheer excellent skill to grab the lead in the 2005 National Touring Car Championship that kicked off last weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Coseteng came back from a disastrous opening race to dominate the final run with precision driving to move on top of the title race with 27 points.

"Accidents can make or break one's bid, said Coseteng, who is gunning for his fourth straight crown since his comeback in the touring car scene in 2001. "I got tangled up in the first heat, but that's part of the race. So I focused my mind on winning the second race."

He figured in a collision with Enzo Pastor while they were negotiating a curve on the seventh lap.

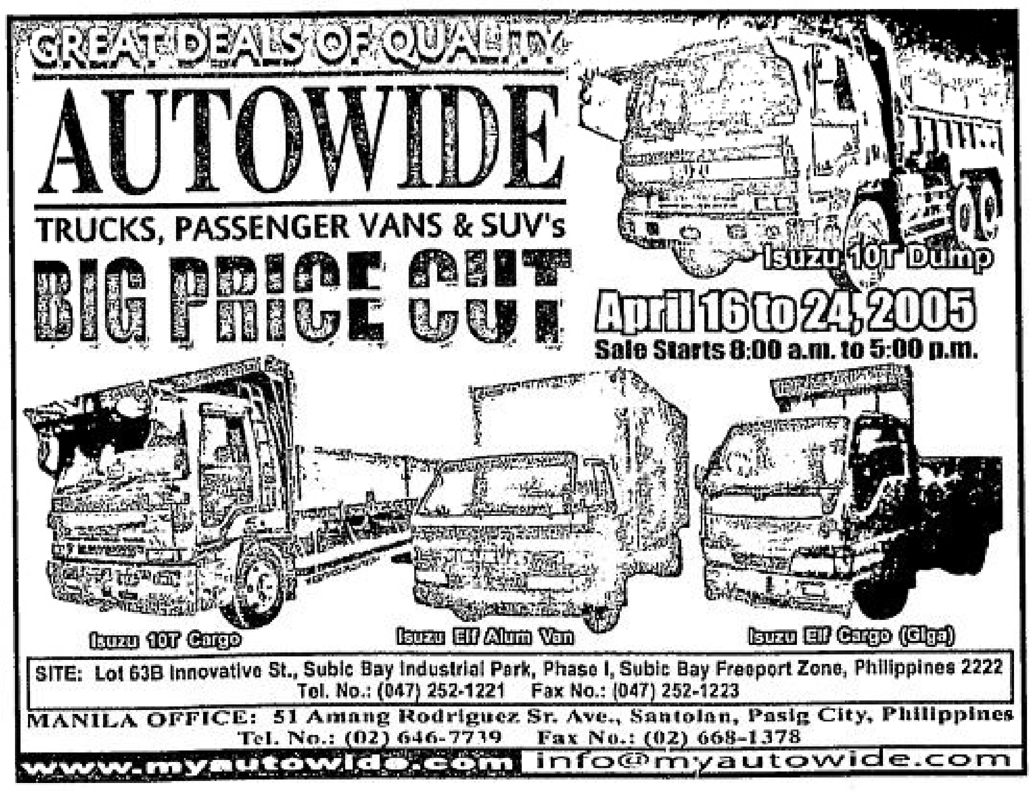
Coseteng took the inside lane while Enzo accidentally cut his path and went out of control. Enzo's younger brother, 19-year-old Don Pastor, exploited the opportunity, passed the two on the outside lane and went on top the 12-lap first race in 34 minutes 32.934 seconds. Coseteng checked in 4.287 seconds later.



JODY Coseteng (car No. 16) shows the way for Enzo Pastor in the NTCC kickoff leg at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Dominic Bon finished third while Oscar Aguilar and Francis Godinez ended fourth and fifth.

Coseteng made his move in the afternoon with a fastest laptime of 1:49.289 on the ninth lap and claimed the checkered flag in 33:41.511 or 3.561 seconds ahead of Enzo Pastor. Don Pastor checked in 6.069 seconds later for third place while Bon and Aguilar ended fourth and fifth, respectively.



GREAT DEALS OF QUALITY
AUTOWIDE
TRUCKS, PASSENGER VANS & SUV's
BIG PRICE CUT
April 16 to 24, 2005
Sale Starts 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
SITE: Lot 63B Innovative St., Subic Bay Industrial Park, Phase I, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
Tel. No.: (047) 252-1221 Fax No.: (047) 252-1223
MANILA OFFICE: 51 Amang Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Santolan, Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. No.: (02) 646-7739 Fax No.: (02) 668-1378
www.myautowide.com info@myautowide.com

SPORTSWATCH

ACCEL 3-Point Shoot-Out

IN CONTINUOUS support to the basketball sports in the Philippines, particularly the outside shootings—ACCEL, one of today's popular sports gears has launched the ACCEL 3 Point Shoot-Out Challenge. The said event challenges young men all over the country ages 19 years old and below. Ilocos Sur National High School will host the elimination slated for Ilocos Region on May 01, 2005. More than P500,000 cash prize and ACCEL products are at stake in this challenge. the winner in this regional elimination round will compete with the other winners from different schools and cities all over the country where prizes will be bigger and more exciting. Top ten shooters in the national finals will be personally trained by the Triggerman—Allan Caidic for free. For more information, contact Chair Boy Artajos at telephone number 077-7222672. The ACCEL 3 Point Shoot-Out Challenge also features band concert by ACCEL celebrity bands—Apo ni Enteng and Zutanghon. Plus side events where everybody can play golf, tennis, football, badminton and will have the chance to win instant ACCEL prizes.

Lagdamen eyes semis

IT will be the kids' turn to showcase their badminton skills as Julius Lagdamen and Judd Reyes dispute one of the semifinal berths in the boys' 10-under class and Ma. Benita Zuñiga and Crismayne Co collide in the girls' side of the JVC Badminton Open Juniors Championships at SM Pampanga today. Lagdamen, playing out of San Juan Badminton Center, is coming off a walkover win in the round of 16 while Reyes of Centro Athletico hopes to keep the momentum of his 15-6, 15-8 victory over Samuel Orbe. Other quarterfinal matches in the event pit Gio Angsico versus Jan Banquiles; Jayvie Cagomoc against Al Chan; and Antonio Villarin against Kennedy Espina. Games will start at 11 a.m. In the girls' category, Zuñiga takes on Co in the first match, but focus will be on Malvinne Alcala of Team Kawasaki/Sports Hub who is fancied over Sarah Serquena in the upper bracket. The other semis berths will be contested by Michelle Millan and Eunice Servando in the lower bracket and Janelle de Vera and Alexandra Villarin in the other contest.

Boxing goes to SuperMall

THE FESTIVAL SuperMall at Filinvest, Muntinlupa, comes alive today starting at 3 p.m. when Johnny Elorde Management International brings its boxers at the activity center for exciting bouts. Exhibition matches will feature the grandsons of the late Gabriel "Flash" Elorde against selected students of the different branches of the Elorde gym. The event is sponsored by Starbucks, Adidas, Near Water 02, Sphere Elorde Gym, Bai & Mig Party Favors, Casa Belrina Travel, Elorde Sports Center and Little House Montessori. A special attraction will be an exhibition bout between Yakuy "The Million Dollar Baby" female boxer and a male professional boxer. RP No. 3 superbantam contender Vinvin Rufino faces No. 7 Luzproba's Charlie Angel in the top main event. Supporting bouts pit RP No. 9 bantam Dante Contiga against Allan Fuentes, Sugar Ray Estrada against Ryan Fermilan, Monico Laurente againsy Ariel Delgado and Jun Rey Canete against Rommel Bongon in 6 rounds.

Las Piñas 3- cocker up

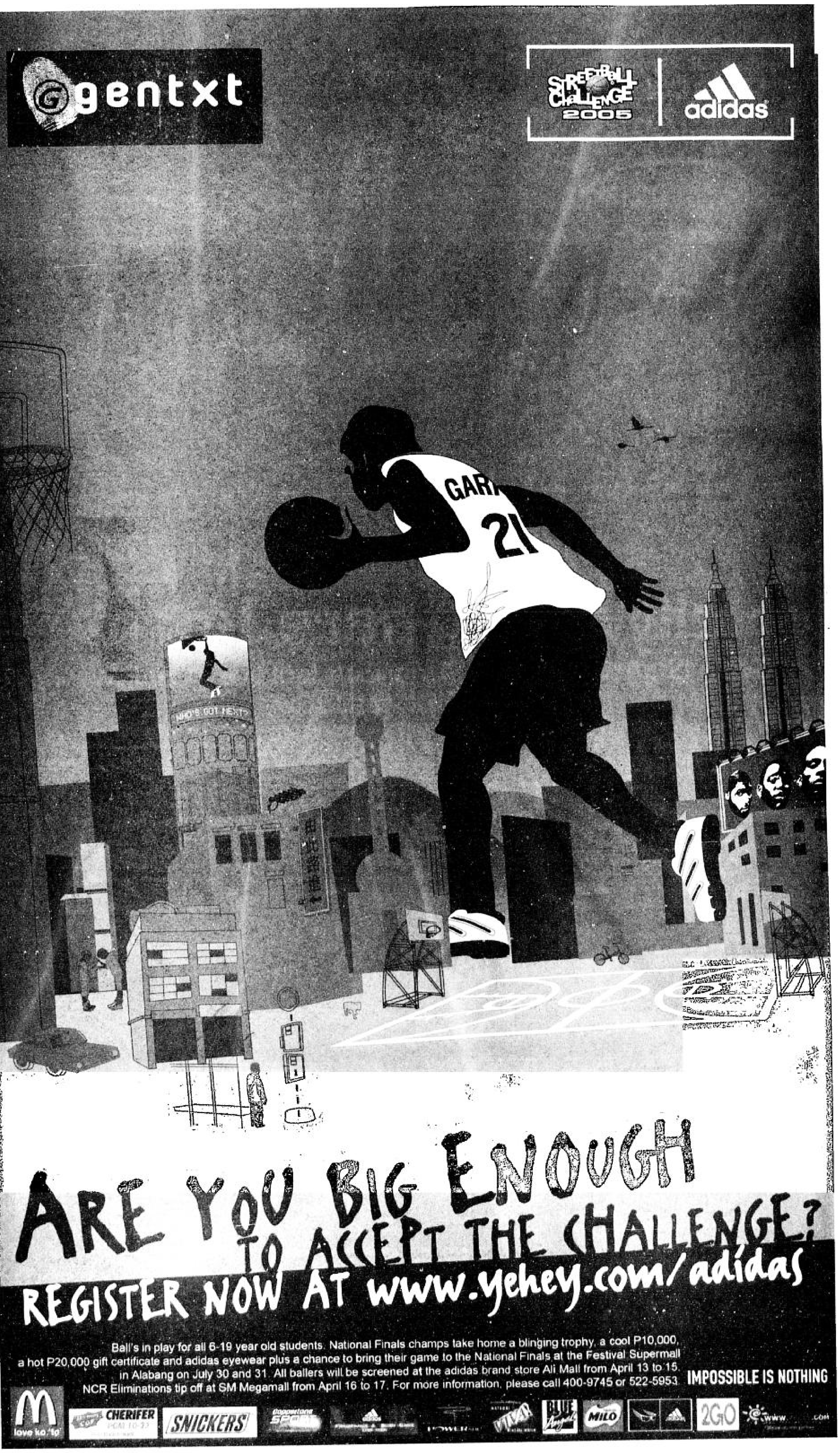
ANOTHER 3-cock derby is slated today at the Las Piñas Coliseum starting at 7 p.m. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. At stake is a cash prize of P300,000 for an entry fee of P5,500. Today's hosts are Moody Almendres and Arman Garcia. Entries must be submitted until 2 p.m. For inquiries, contact 8731040 and 8743910. Meanwhile, the seventh leg of "Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 7—Cock Derby" is scheduled on April 25 and 27. The team of William Go, James Uy and ASF Group won the sixth GCAP derby after their combined entry WG AS JU Lista Na piled up six wins and one loss.

Filcobra 5-cock finals

WHO will be the first Filcobra Cocker of the Year? The answer will be known today as the "Filcobra Grand Championship 5 – Cock Derby" blasts off at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Action starts at 4 p.m. Among the top contenders in the Filcobra Cocker of the Year race are Sherwin Torres and Abraham Bernales (DJ Sherwin), Philip Chiongbian and Edmund Yasay (Wild Na Wild), Col Tabique (Joyjoy), Benny Lado (Black Alabat), Tos Reyes (Nevada), Albert Dichavez (Sovereign Escort) and Ju Listana. Meanwhile, the last day of eliminations (2- cock) of "Ratratan 4 – Cock Derby" is on April 23. For inquiries, contact 8332275 and 8331638.

300 entries expected

WITH a guaranteed prize of P630,000 at stake, more than 300 cockers and breeders are expected to take part in Texas Cockpit Arena's "Fast Kill Challenge One-Cock Ulutan" on May 3. Entry fee is P2, 200. Hosts Kags Paliza, Aba Badiola and Sam Mendoza, who recently staged the 576- entry PSG One- Cock Ulutan, said the event will start at 7 a.m. The first 20 winners will get a 14" color TV as bonus and the first 20 losers, one electric fan each. Pit manager TJ Marquez said the cockpit's two ruedas will be used simultaneously Call 6462312 or 0918-9251121 (Kags) or 0921-5191962 (Aba) for details.



ARE YOU BIG ENOUGH TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE?
REGISTER NOW AT www.yehey.com/adidas
Ball's in play for all 6-19 year old students. National Finals champs take home a blinging trophy, a cool P10,000, a hot P20,000 gift certificate and adidas eyewear plus a chance to bring their game to the National Finals at the Festival Supermall in Alabang on July 30 and 31. All ballers will be screened at the adidas brand store Ali Mall from April 13 to 15. NCR Eliminations tip off at SM Megamall from April 16 to 17. For more information, please call 400-9745 or 522-5953.
IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SPORTS

MARLBORO ADVENTURE TEAM
Chris Nelson, Philip Morris Phils. Manufacturing Inc. managing director (right), and participants in the 2005 Marlboro Adventure Team whoop it up after finishing an off-road course at Camp Adventure in Tagaytay City. Of the 50 finalists vying in the competition that includes kayaking, mountaineering, trekking, and motor sports, only five will be chosen tonight to represent the Philippines at the international tilt in Moab, Utah. The announcement will be held at the Le Pavilion complex along Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

TOBY'S TENNIS

Siso, Lagman clinch titles

TOP SEEDS Bernardine Siso and Jacob Lagman topped their respective divisions yesterday as favored players held sway in the Toby's Summer Tennis Festival at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Siso of Cebu rallied past second pick Kyle Cordero, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, to pocket the boys' 12-under title while Lagman routed second seed Calvin Canlas, 6-0, 6-2 to bag the unisex 10-under title.

In the boys' 18-under, top seed Russell Arcilla Jr. bested Julius Lagman, 6-3, 6-2, to gain the semifinals against Gerardo Narvaez, who defeated Alvin Manalastas, 7-5, 6-0. Also advancing were No. 2 Leyan Moncera, who survived Marvin Serito, 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (6), and No. 6 Joshua Tan Ho who stunned No. 3 Johnwill Baldonado, 6-3, 6-1.

In the girls' 18-under, Trudy Amoranto beat Nikki Manalo, 6-3, 6-3; Jessica Agra survived Julie Em Botor, 6-2, 7-5; Zhane Quitara tripped Christine Patrimonio, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1; and Michelle Pang topped Ivy de Castro, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, to reach the semis of this event presented by Prince and co-sponsored by Eastpak, Nassau balls and Gatorade.

In the boys' 14-under play, top seed Francis Casey Alcantara downed No. 6 Kyle Cordero, 6-2, 6-0, to forge a semifinal duel with No. 3 Akio Hari Ong Sy, a 6-2, 6-2 winner over Bernardine Siso.

Second seed Kim Ivor Saraza defeated Roman Floreza, 6-3, 6-4, to advance against Juan Fidel Regis, who downed Nicole Magaway, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Booking quarterfinal berths in the boys' 16-under division were No. 1 Russell Arcilla, No. 2 Leyan Moncera, No. 3 Johnwill Baldonado, Nino Alcantara, Marvin Serito, Kim Ivor Saraza, Julius Lagman and Alvin Manalastas.

ASIA Votes American Idol
MYGLOBE exclusive
STAR WORLD

Hollywood, here I come!
Get a chance to watch American Idol live in Hollywood!
Text IDOL to 2366

Download the featured wallpaper, text card or logo of the week, register and vote for your idol, and get a chance to win two round trip tickets to Los Angeles, California or 58 American Idol Microphones!*

Text IDOL <download code> <finalist name>, <name, address> to 2366

April 20 (4pm) to April 21 (4pm)
NADIA
AI2
AI3
AI1
April 27 (4pm) to April 28 (4pm)
Constantine
AI2
AI3
AI1
May 4 (4pm) to May 5 (4pm)
VONZEL
AI2
AI3
AI1
May 11 (4pm) to May 12 (4pm)
MARIO
AI2
AI3
AI1
May 18 (4pm) to May 19 (4pm)
Anwar
AI2
AI3
AI1
May 25 (4pm) to May 26 (4pm)
CARRIE
AI2
AI3
AI1

Get these other great American Idol downloads!

Wallpaper: Text CP <download code> to 2366

Text Card: Text PIC <download code> to 2366

Logos: Text LOGO <download code> to 2366

For more downloads, log on to www.abs-cbn.com and look for the American Idol link.

See it first on STAR:
Wednesdays and Thursdays at 4 pm.
Primetime telecast: 8 pm

Mechanics:
1. Participants must have a valid US Visa.
2. To earn entries, participants must download only between 4 pm Wednesdays and 4 pm Thursdays.
3. Participants can earn a maximum of 9 entries per voting period.

*Raffle draw for the grand prize will be on May 5. Raffle draws for the American Idol microphones will be until May 26.

Rate per download: P15.00 for logos and textcards, P20.00 for wallpaper

Activate MMS and GPRS on your phone now!
1. For a list of compatible handsets, send NOKIA, ERICSSON or SAMSUNG (depending on your handset model) to 2365. Regular text messaging charges apply.
2. Text GO <handset model> to 2951 to get your phone's settings. Ex. GO N3650. For Nokia 6170, 6600, 6230, 6820, 7260, 7270 and 7610 text GO <handset model>,,1234 to 2951. Ex. For Nokia 6600 text GO N6600,, 1234. Make sure that you type in the two commas before the 1234 PIN.
3. Enter 1234 when asked for PIN to save the settings.
4. Send an MMS message for only P5.00 to activate the service.

Promo Period: March 16 - May 26, 2005. Voting is exclusive to GLOBE and TM subscribers. Please note your vote does not have an impact on the results of American Idol. Per DTI-NCR Permit 1409, series of 2005. Log on to www.startv.com/idol for detailed Terms & Conditions.

PARTICIPANTS train in Boracay for the Cali Boracay Fever 2005.

Beach Ultimate tilt returns to Boracay Apr. 23

BEACH Ultimate, the summer version of the hottest new sport in the country, returns to its local birthplace, Boracay, with the Cali Boracay Fever 2005 Beach Ultimate tournament slated April 23-24.

Teams from all over Asia will try to wrest the title from the Boracay Dragons and get the bragging rights as the region's best Beach Ultimate team.

Cali, the non-alcoholic, sparkling fruit-flavored drink, is the presenting sponsor while Hey Jude Bar, summerplace Bar, Bom Bom Bar, Blazin' 105.9 and Sea Air are the tournament sponsors.

When the sun sets, partying goes into overdrive with the Cali Boracay G-Mix Bartending Competition. This event pits the country's top mix masters against each other, in a battle of wild moves and even wilder drinks.

Beach Ultimate action is fast and adrenaline-pumping. Speed, stamina, athleticism, precision and agility are part of the game and spectators can expect fantastic catches, lighting-fast passes and diving interceptions.

Playing Beach Ultimate revolves around the disc which will be passed from one teammate to another, until the disc reaches the end zone of the playing area. However, players cannot run with the disc or jump while passing. The player holding the disc has only six seconds to pass it to a teammate or his team loses possession. Interceptions can only occur when the disc is in play.

Atienza, sports execs to attend MYG inaugurals

THE COUNTRY'S top sports officials have been invited to grace the festive and colorful opening ceremonies of the 4th Manila Youth Games tomorrow at the Rizal Memorial Track Stadium.

Philippine Sports Commission Officer-in-Charge William "Butch" Ramirez is expected to be joined by Philippine Olympic Committee President Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. in one of the liveliest sports gatherings this year.

Also expected to attend the elaborate inaugurals are PSC Commissioners Leon Montemayor, Ambrosio de Luna and Jose Mundo, as well as officials of various National Sports Associations.

Arnold "Ali" Atienza, chief of the organizing Manila Sports Council (Masco), said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza will declare the games open. City hall luminaries and representatives from 897 barangays and six congressional districts are also expected to attend.

Around 10,000 in- and out-of-school athletes aged 17 and under will see action in the event backed by Red Bull, San Miguel Corp., Globe Telecoms, Solar Sports, Super Ferry, Milo, IntraSports, Concept Movers, PSC and Pagcor.

SATURDAY Special

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

John Lennon's life turned into stage musical

SAN FRANCISCO—Former Beatle John Lennon's life has become a musical show that boasts of previously unpublished songs written by the musical legend, who was murdered nearly 25 years ago.

"Lennon," which opened in San Francisco recently, spotlights the singer and songwriter's life, from his poor start in Liverpool to the peak of his Beatles fame, to peace activist and ultimately the victim of a crazed fan.

But, the show will not feature a look-alike wearing Lennon's trademark round glasses and long hair. Instead, nine members of a multi-racial cast will play out scenes from the British superstar's life.

"It's a book musical, although the performing style is not traditional," said director Don Scardino, an unabashed Beatles and Lennon fan. "It's kind of a 'story theater' way of dramatizing the story."

LENNON. Two of his songs will be heard for the first time.

Hits

The actors sing Lennon hits including "Imagine," "Give Peace a Chance." "(Just Like) Starting Over" and "Whatever Gets You Through the Night," as well as two songs that Lennon's widow Yoko Ono released to him.

The songs, "India, India" and "I Don't Want to Lose You," will be heard for the first time on the stage of the US city's Orpheum Theater, just in time for the 25th anniversary of Lennon's death in December.

Scardinio said he met with the very private Ono, who fiercely defends her husband's legacy, and won her blessing for the show.

"That was such an incredible gift," Scardino said. "And I felt that, coming from Ms Ono, it was a real vote of confidence and belief in the show." Scardino said his goal for the show was to introduce new audiences to Lennon's solo music and to his extraordinary life.

Peace activist

"He was a brilliant songwriter and performer. He was a major peace activist who was on (former US president Richard) Nixon's enemies list for opposing the war in Vietnam, and he was persecuted and harassed by our government.

"But, they couldn't stop him. He was a great lover, and the story of John and Yoko is one of the great love stories of our time. And he led the way for millions of us to look into our hearts, and discover who we really are," Scardino said.

Lennon was shot to death outside his New York apartment by deranged fan Mark David Chapman on Dec. 8, 1980. *AFP*

Danger lurks behind Matthew McConaughey's roguish good looks

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM Sylvia Pamintuan: "I've been a fan of Matthew McConaughey since I saw him in 'A Time to Kill.' Tell us more about him."

Director Joel Schumacher ("Phantom of the Opera") describes Matthew McConaughey as a "wild Texas guy who looks like the boy next door." He believes that it's the danger lurking behind the actor's good looks that makes him appealing. The 35-year-old actor, however, refuses to be pegged.

While growing up in Texas, the youngest of three siblings was not interested in his father's oil pipe-supply business. He wanted to travel to exotic places. Thus, after high school (where he was voted "Most Handsome"), he spent a year in Australia, earning his keep by shoveling chicken manure!

MCCONAUGHEY. His latest film, "Sahara," debuted at No. 1.

Law degree

Upon his return, he set his sights on a law degree. But, when he read Og Mandino's "The Greatest Salesman in the World," he shifted his major to film studies. Shortly thereafter, he was cast in a beer commercial. Richard Linklater ("Before Sunset") initially turned him down for a small role as a skirt-chasing high school jock in "Dazed and Confused." "Too handsome," he reasoned. But, the director eventually changed his mind, and Matthew's role was expanded from a three-scene bit part to an improv-based 300-line role.

The following year, he played the sadistic killer who terrorized newcomer Renée Zellwegger in "The Return of the Texas Chainsaw Massacre." Then, he promptly landed important roles in John Sayles' "Lone Star," Joel Schumacher's 'A Time to Kill," Robert Zemeckis' "Contact," Steven Spielberg's "Amistad," and played romantic lead to Jennifer Lopez ("The Wedding Planner") and Kate Hudson ("How to Lose A Guy in 10 Days").

The 6-foot Scorpio remains undaunted by the Hollywood scene's glitter and glare. But, six years ago, Matthew had a run-in with the law when his neighbors sought police assistance: His stereo was turned up so loud, and he was found playing bongo in his back yard—in the nude!

Reality check

An illegal substance found in the scene brought him to jail—an experience that taught him lessons on freedom and responsibility.

He said: "It was a quick reality check on how good you've got it: Four gray walls, a steel bunk and a hole in the floor! Initially, I stayed cool about it. But after nine hours, I started wondering what it would be like to be in this hole for the next 20 years!"

Despite that earlier debacle, Matthew has turned himself into a real-life hero on two occasions: While promoting "13 Conversations About One Thing" at the Toronto Film Festival, he was the first to attend to a woman who fainted after standing in line all day.

The following year, McConaughey found himself rendering mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a sound man who had a seizure while he was being interviewed to promote "Reign of Fire."

Romantic life

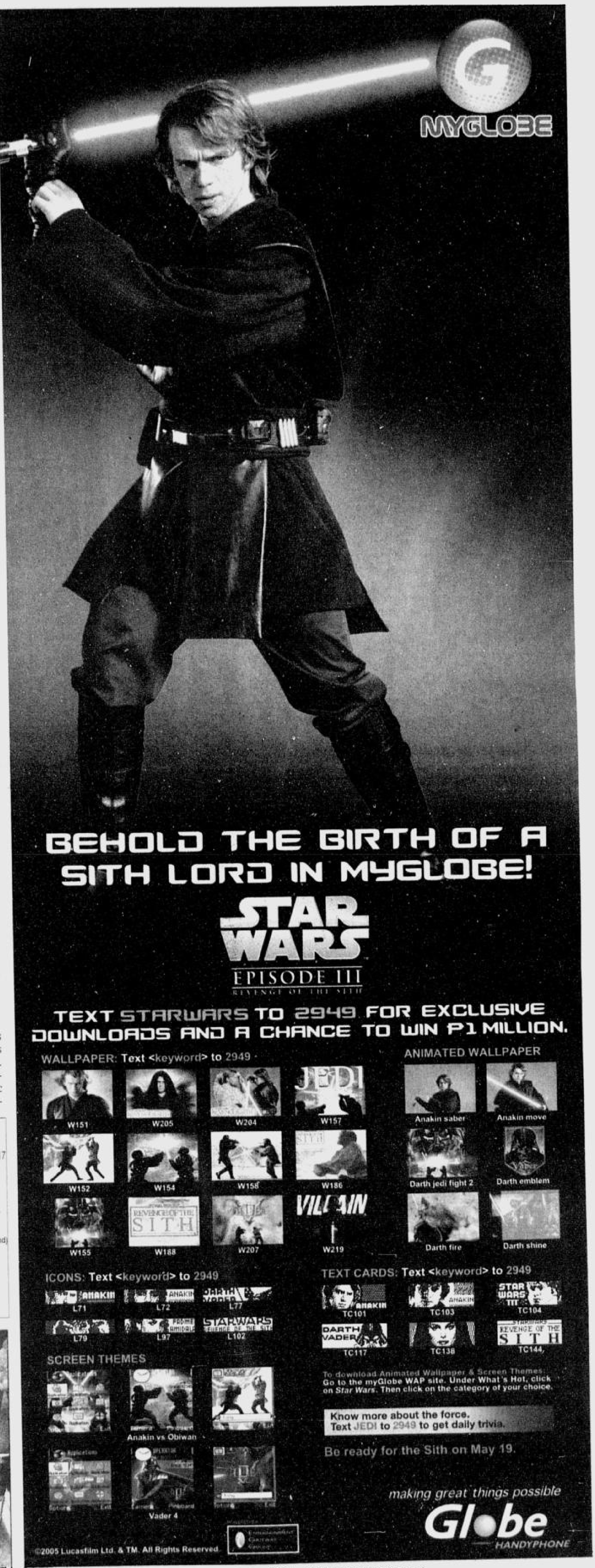
His romantic life is tabloid fodder. He has dated Ashley Judd and Sandra Bullock, and his current flame is "Sahara" co-star Penelope Cruz. The couple has accepted another project together— Joe Coomer's "The Loop," a romantic drama about a highway patrolman (McConaughey) encouraged by a librarian (Cruz) to search for his parents.

These days, he contentedly rides the wave of having a No. 1 movie ("Sahara") at the US box office, and offers these arresting thoughts: "I feel solid in my shoes: I am crazy, but I'm not reckless. I'm a bit weird, but I'm not clinically insane!"

Animation Workshop
Ages 7 to 17
Drawing for Animation (Freehand)
Flash Animation (Computer)
Call for inquiries
687-3904
636-4675
GD-3 Pacific Center
33 San Miguel Ave.
Ortigas, Pasig City
innov8
School of Animation Arts

20% off on all items

Teak & Other Hardwood Furniture
FMF Compound, 126 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 631-1221 • Telefax (632) 638-3640
Store Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 9 am - 8 pm • Sunday, 1 pm - 6 pm
e-mail us at: inquiry@komodo-online.com
kómodo
You can also purchase Komodo products through Equitable Deferred Payment.
PROMO PERIOD IS FROM APRIL 16-30, 2005 PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A3-279 SERIES OF 2005



BEHOLD THE BIRTH OF A SITH LORD IN MYGLOBE!

TEXT STARWARS TO 2949 FOR EXCLUSIVE DOWNLOADS AND A CHANCE TO WIN P1 MILLION.

WALLPAPER: Text <keyword> to 2949

ANIMATED WALLPAPER

ICONS: Text <keyword> to 2949

TEXT CARDS: Text <keyword> to 2949

SCREEN THEMES

To download Animated Wallpaper & Screen Themes: Go to the myGlobe WAP site. Under What's Hot, click on *Star Wars*. Then click on the category of your choice.

Know more about the force.
Text JEDI to 2949 to get daily trivia.

Be ready for the Sith on May 19.

©2005 Lucasfilm Ltd. & TM. All Rights Reserved.

Rates:
₱2.50 for daily trivia
₱15.00 for logos and text cards
₱20.00 for colored and animated wallpaper
₱30.00 for screen themes

Activate MMS and GPRS on your phone now!
1. For a list of compatible handsets, send NOKIA, ERICSSON or SAMSUNG (depending on your handset model) to 2365. Regular text messaging charges apply.
2. Text GO <handset model> to 2951 to get your phone's settings. Ex. GO N3650. For Nokia 6170, 6600, 6230, 6820, 7260, 7270 and 7610 text GO <handset model>,,1234 to 2951. Ex. For Nokia 6600 text GO N6600,, 1234. Make sure that you type in the two commas before the 1234 PIN.
3. Enter 1234 when asked for PIN to save the settings.
4. Send an MMS message for only ₱5.00 to activate the service.

Promo ends June 30, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1265, Series of 2005.

Look, Ma, no wires or blue screen

JAA. Perfect martial arts hero.

By Noelani Torre

WE must confess that we were reluctant to watch "Ong-Bak: The Thai Warrior." What with a plot that read like your typical B-movie action flick and a poster that looked like yet another martial arts cliché, the production didn't appear promising.

There was one tidbit of information that caught our attention, however: the movie's claim that neither computer special effects nor "flying" mechanisms were used in the stunts —or, as they put it, "no stunt doubles, no computer graphics, no strings attached."

Pretty impressive, that—especially when you get to see the stunts that they do in this movie. Of course, we all know what a strategically-angled camera can do, but even when we take this into consideration, the movie's intricately choreographed yet earthy fight and flight scenes will still take your breath away.

Physical comedy

There is no otherworldly wire-assisted leaping about *ala* "Crouching Tiger" and "Hero" here—what we get are scene after scene of explosive, bone-crunching elbow and knee jabs, and graceful, twisty chases imbued with the kind of physical comedy trademarked by Jackie Chan.

The star of this particular martial arts caper is Tony Jaa (born Phanom Yeerum), who plays the role of Ting—village boy, Muay Thai expert, and reluctant warrior.

Tony Jaa is the perfect martial arts hero, with a muscularly well-defined but not overblown body, an inscrutable Jet Li-ish mien, and a talent for physical comedy *ala* Jackie Chan. They've been touting him to be the next great martial arts star and we can see why—he has everything going for him, including a goodly dose of the charisma that separates an action star from a mere stuntman.

Plot

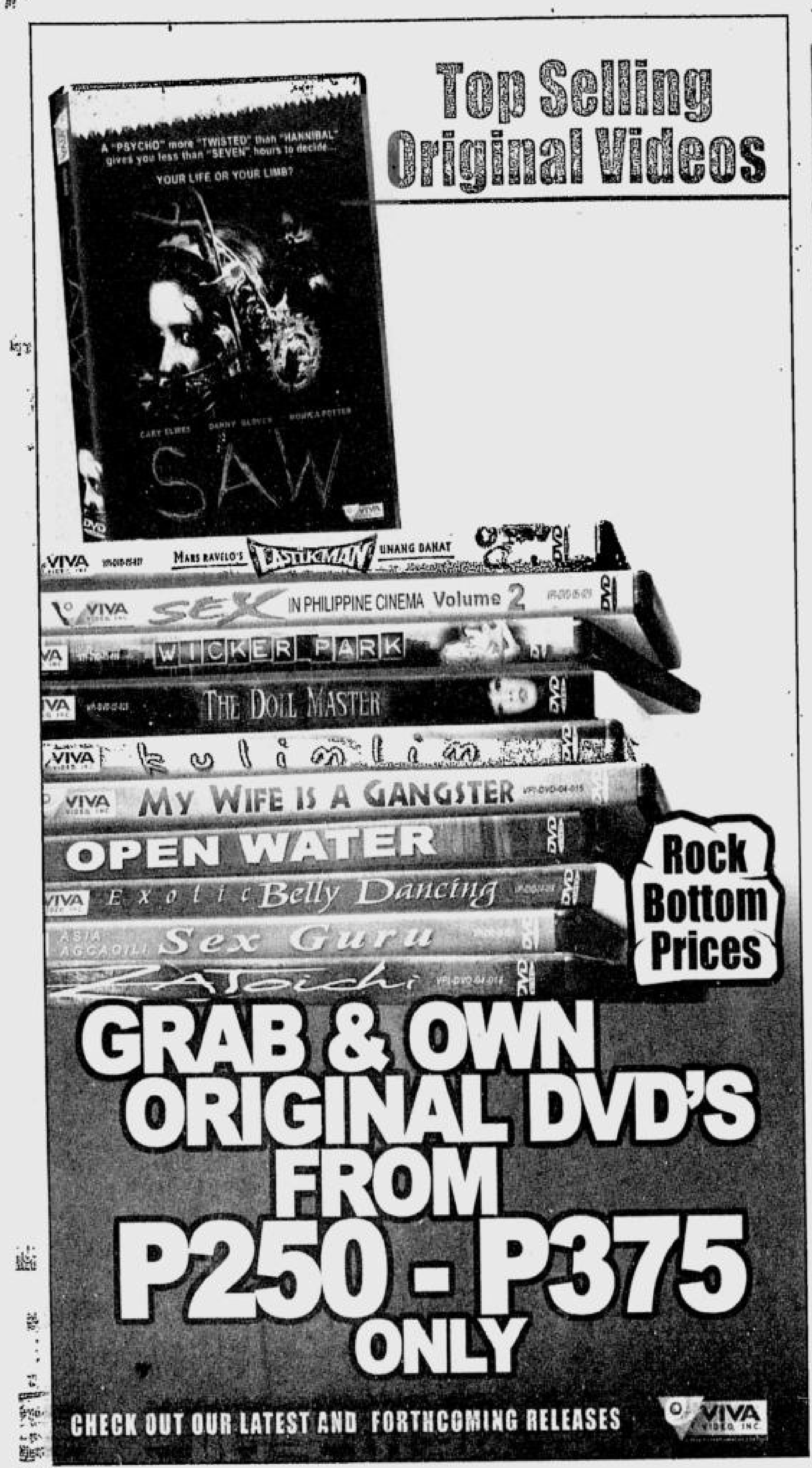
The movie runs for more than 100 minutes, and about 10 of these comprise the plot, which goes like this: the head of a village's deity (the Ong-Bak) is stolen by a couple of goons from the big city (Bangkok). Ting (Jaa), the village's top martial artist, heads to the seedy city to get it back, enlisting the aid of a petty crook of a cousin, and going against a powerful crime lord. The rest of the movie is made up of all those fight and flight scenes we mentioned, which are really the film's point.

"Ong-Bak: The Thai Warrior" is a straightforward martial arts movie. It doesn't pretend to be something more, which is why we can forgive it for its flimsy storyline and all the other illogical things that keep happening in your typical martial arts flick, like the one-hero-against-12-goons scenario, with the latter attacking the former one, by one thus allowing themselves to be defeated, etc.

Chase scene

If "Ong-Bak" sounds like a cliché, that's because it is. It knows this, however, and it delights in sending itself up. This is best illustrated in the first chase scene, where Ting and his cousin are pursued across twisting market alleyways by an army of thugs. Guess what they run across? Guys holding up a coil of barbed wire? Check. Guys crossing the street with a sheet of glass? Check. A fruit and vegetable cart? Check. You get the picture.

It's the fact that they did everything old-style here, however that is one of the movie's strongest points. We've gotten so used to wires, blue screen, and CGI that it's refreshing to see a bunch of guys wowing us with sheer physical skill!


Top Selling Original Videos
A "PSYCHO" more "TWISTED" than "HANNIBAL" gives you less than "SEVEN" hours to decide...
YOUR LIFE OR YOUR LIMB?
SAW
MARS RAVELO'S LASTIKMAN UNANG BANAT
SEX IN PHILIPPINE CINEMA Volume 2
WICKER PARK
THE DOLL MASTER
kulimlim
MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER
OPEN WATER
Exotic Belly Dancing
Sex Guru
Zatoichi
VIVA
Rock Bottom Prices
GRAB & OWN ORIGINAL DVD'S FROM P250 - P375 ONLY
CHECK OUT OUR LATEST AND FORTHCOMING RELEASES
VIVA VIDEO, INC.

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

Cineplex Grand Lobby

CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CinePlex*10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
Custom Fabric Seats & Wall-To-Wall Carpeting
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
ONLY P99 ADMISSION • P120 RESERVED SEATS
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

WEDDING DATE
12:25 / 2:35 / 4:45 / 6:55 / 9:05
FINDING NEVERLAND
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
SAMARA RING 2
12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
ONG BAK
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
SAHARA
1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
THE PACIFIER
2:00 / 4:25 / 6:50 / 9:15
SPONGEBOB & SQUAREPANTS
1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
HIDE & SEEK
2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
CLOSER
1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ FINDING NEVERLAND
11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
❷ ONG BAK
11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
❸ SAHARA
12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
❹ PELUKANG ITIM
11:10 / 1:25 / 3:40 / 5:55 / 8:10
❺ SAMARA RING 2
11:10 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
THE CASCADES: LIVE IN MANILA
April 15 Friday, 8pm
RIVERMAYA & KITCHIE NADAL LIVE!
April 16, Saturday, 8pm
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE Apr. 17
4:15pm Alaska vs Red Bull / 6:35pm Ginebra vs. Talk N' Text
MARTIN NIEVERA & PATTI AUSTIN LIVE!
April 22, Friday, 8pm

CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENTS
Handyman Spectacular Sunshine Days Sale ongoing until April 28 at Farmers Plaza
Sogo Home & Office Center Summer Hotshots Sale ongoing until April 24 at Ali Mall
Perfect Pitch Summer Swing Out Sale ongoing until April 30 at Ali Mall
SPECIAL PROMOS
Popeye's 'All-The-Chicken-You-Can-Eat For Only P129' promo & Bench 'FREE Tropicana Twister For Every P1000 Purchase' promo, both ongoing until April 30 at Farmers Plaza.
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) WEDDING DATE PG13
2 (DOLBY) FINDING NEVERLAND GP
3 (DOLBY) SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS GP
4 (DOLBY) SAHARA PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) SAMARA (RING 2) PG13

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 SAHARA
2 SPONGEBOB
3 SAMARA (RING - 2)
4 WEDDING DATE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SAHARA
2 ONG BAK
3 SAMARA (RING -2)

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 GAMITAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SAHARA
5 ONG BAK

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 ONG BAK
2 KAPITBAHAY
3 UNDER RENOVATION
4 UNDER RENOVATION
5 (DOLBY) SAHARA
6 HIDE AND SEEK

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) LEGENDARY STREET FIGHTER
2 RENTAL RESERVATION

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 WEDDING DATE
2 (SDDS) FINDING NEVERLAND
3 (DTS) SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
4 GOLD (DTS) HIDE AND SEEK
5 GOLD (DOLBY) SAHARA
6 GOLD (SDDS) PACIFIER
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SAMARA (RING -2)
8 SAMARA (RING - 2)
9 CLOSER
10 ONG BAK

Araneta Center CINEMA GUIDE
For Inquiries Pls. Call TICKETNET 911-5555
GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
Level 4, Gateway Mall
The First and Only Real Cineplex In the Philippines!
ALL THEATERS IN DOLBY EX ULTRA SOUND, FULL STADIUM SEATING AND EXCLUSIVE VISTA COMPUTER TICKET SYSTEM GUARANTEED SEATS, NO STANDING ROOM.
WEDDING DATE
FINDING NEVERLAND
SAMARA RING 2
ONG BAK
SAHARA
THE PACIFIER
SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
HIDE AND SEEK
CLOSER
ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 FINDING NEVERLAND
2 ONG BAK
3 SAHARA
4 PELUKANG ITIM
5 SAMARA RING 2

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 PILUKANG ITIM
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 RESERVED
4 TEMPTATION NIGHT

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 SAHARA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) PACIFIER
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 (DTS EX) MISS CONGENIALITY
4 CLOSER

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 MISS CONGENIALITY
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 (DOLBY) PACIFIER
4 (DTS) CLOSER

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.0489
1 HOSTAGE
2 CONFIDENCE
3 (DOLBY) DARKNESS
4 (DTS) WITHOUT A PADDLE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) SAMARA
2 (DOLBY) SAHARA
3 (DOLBY) WEDDING DATE
4 (DOLBY) FINDING NEVERLAND

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 CURSED
2 (DTS) MISS CONGENIALITY
3 (DOLBY) SAHARA
4 CLOSER

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 CLOSER
2 (DOLBY) SAHARA
3 (DTS) MISS CONGENIALITY
4 CURSED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 BUNSHINSABA
2 FINAL CUT
3 (DOLBY) HOSTAGE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 FINAL CUT
2 SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
3 (DOLBY) SORUM
4 (DTS) HIDE AND SEEK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 MISS CONGENIALITY
2 BE COOL
3 (DOLBY) HOSTAGE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) GRO
2 KAYA MO PERO MASAKIT
3 PILUKANG ITIM
4 (DTS) BENTH LOCHNESS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) SAHARA
2 CLOSER
3 (DTS) MISS CONGENIALITY
4 HUWAD NA HAYOP
5 CURSED

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 FINAL CUT
2 BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DTS) MISS CONGENIALITY
4 (DOLBY) HOSTAGE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 ALONE IN THE DARK
2 CURSED
3 SEX & ZEN
4 HIDE AND SEEK

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 KAULAYAW
2 BULLETS

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THE POPE (WITH NUT AND ELVIRA MANAHAN, RIGHT). His eyes redefined the meaning of sanctity.

Pope John Paul II lovingly remembered

By Nestor U. Torre

THE FIRST time I felt a personal connection to Pope John Paul II was early in his pontificate, in 1981, when he first visited the Philippines. I covered his arrival at the airport for the newspaper I was writing for at the time. I was struck by his simplicity and palpable spirituality—and by his sense of humor.

That was a rare combination of seemingly contradictory qualities, and I delighted in the contrasts it afforded. Here, I thought, was a pope exactly right for the modern age—but also for all time.

The next time I got to meet Pope John Paul II, my dear friend Elvira Manahan and I were on vacation in Italy, and since she was very well-connected, she got us an opportunity to meet the pope at the Vatican. It wasn't a private audience, but we still got front-row seats at a papal audience at St. Peter's Square.

Stringent security

It was tough having to put up with the event's stringent security and protocol rules, but when the pope finally hove into view, all of our little difficulties disappeared instantly.

It was an amazing experience. There were many people around, but the minute the pope appeared, it felt like they had all disappeared, and there were only the two of you.

Indeed, the pope was with us for only about 10 seconds, but it seemed like time had stood still for much longer than that. All of a sudden, he was in front of me, and all I could do was to kiss his ring and ask him to bless me and my family. When he looked at me and uttered his blessing, as I had so brashly bidden, his eyes redefined for me the meaning of sanctity.

When he moved to Elvira, she looked like a little girl, so dazzled was she by his palpable kindness, generosity and love.

Fortunate pilgrim

Before we knew it, the pope had moved on to another fortunate pilgrim, but we would remember that moment for years to come.

Even better than our loving recollection, Elvira's VIP connections gifted us with an unexpected bonus: A series of photographs of our unforgettable encounter with the pope, one of which we've reproduced to illustrate this loving tribute.

As if this weren't beatific grace enough, the pope visited the Philippines to canonize Lorenzo Ruiz and his companion martyrs in Japan. Once again, I covered the event for print and TV, and reported on his various activities.

Outpouring of love

Some years ago, on a pilgrimage that ended up in Rome, our group attended yet another papal audience, and I marveled at the great outpouring of love that greeted the pope when he appeared.

We next covered the beatification of Mother Teresa at the Vatican. By that time, Pope John Paul II was already suffering gravely from his many illnesses, and there were those who thought that he should resign.

Well, that day at the Vatican, St. Peter's Square was full of people, and the overwhelming ovation with which they greeted the pontiff made it absolutely clear that all of them wanted him to remain pope, to his dying breath.

Earlier this month, that's exactly what he did.

Music is OJ Mariano's life

By Jocelyn Valle

MARIANO. Versatile.

OJ Mariano started singing at age three, belting out "Tomorrow," the theme from "Annie," at the top of his lungs. He blended well vocally with his parents and sister, who're likewise passionate about singing.

He placed second runner-up and copped the "Texters' Choice" award at last year's second season finale of "Star in a Million." Then he became a favorite in the bar circuit as a versatile solo act.

However, OJ felt oddly uncomfortable when he hit the recording studio early this year to work on his debut album. "I was overwhelmed by how fast things were happening for me," he recalls.

Bland

"So my first attempts came out bland, *wala raw* emotion. I started loosening up as the recording progressed, and just worked harder until my producers and I liked what we heard."

OJ's efforts resulted in "One Dream Come True," a delightful collection of original compositions and well-loved hits—namely, "Believe It or Not" (the theme from the '80s TV show, "Greatest American Hero"), Chicago's "You're the Inspiration" and Dingdong Avanzado's "Maghihintay sa 'Yo."

OJ is being compared to acknowledged R&B Prince, Jay-R. "I'm flattered," he exclaims. "But we shouldn't be compared with each other, because we have different styles!"

SINTEF
Japanese Industrial Standard(JIS)
Exclusively Distributed by
CHAIRLINK OFFICE GALLERY
G/F CMLC Bldg., 259-269 EDSA, Mandaluyong City
(Besides LANDBANK, near Connecticut St., Greenhills)
Tel. No. 7263308/7220109
AIKO Fire & Burglary Resistant Safes
The Hallmark of Security
0% INTEREST Appliance installment Showdown at Anson EMPORIUM
Glorietta Activity Center April 8-18, 2005
Dial System
Digital lock system
Dual Protection Locking System
All Aiko Safes come with our ultra-secure cylinder key lock system and the combination lock which features 100 million combinations and is virtually manipulation-proof.
AS-46
Outside :H372 x W486 x D350mm
Inside :H217 x W357 x D234mm
Weight :46Kgs Capacity :18 *l*
ASD-53
Outside :H695 x W344 x D413mm
Inside :H357 x W217 x D262mm
Weight :60Kgs Capacity :20.3 *l*
Depository Safe
Ideal for business establishments
After 120 mins heating test at 1010 C/1850° F.
The red hot cabinet was hoisted to a 4-meter height for the drop test.
AS-90
Outside :H620 x W440 x D497mm
Inside :H426 x W310 x D310mm
Weight :90Kgs Capacity :41 *l*
AS-130
Outside :H750 x W500 x D550mm
Inside :H543 x W362 x D335mm
Weight :130Kgs Capacity :66 *l*

MYGLOBE
FACE A NEW EVIL IN MYGLOBE!
STAR WARS EPISODE III
TEXT STARWARS TO 2949 FOR EXCLUSIVE DOWNLOADS AND A CHANCE TO WIN P1MILLION.
WALLPAPER: Text <keyword> to 2949
W172 W175 W177 W178
W179 W180 W182 W183
W197 W199 W221 W226
ANIMATED WALLPAPER
Grievous fire ROFS3
Darth fire 2 Darth fire 3
Palpatine Vader Darth frame
ICONS: Text <keyword> to 2949
L75 L80 L81
L82 L83 L105
TEXT CARDS: Text <keyword> to 2949
TC118 TC120 TC121
TC122 TC123 TC125
SCREEN THEMES:
Grievous 3
Grievous 5
To download Animated Wallpaper & Screen Themes: Go to the myGlobe WAP site. Under What's Hot, click on *Star Wars*. Then click on the category of your choice.
The countdown to the battle begins.
Text SITH to 2949 to get calendar logos.
Be ready for the Sith on May 19.
making great things possible
Globe HANDYPHONE
©2005 Lucasfilm Ltd. & TM. All Rights Reserved.

Rates:
₱2.50 for calendar logos
₱15.00 for logos and text cards
₱20.00 for colored and animated wallpaper
₱30.00 for screen themes

Activate MMS and GPRS on your phone now!
1. For a list of compatible handsets, send NOKIA, ERICSSON or SAMSUNG (depend
on your handset model) to 2365. Regular text messaging charges apply.
2. Text GO <handset model> to 2951 to get your phone's settings. Ex. GO N3650. For No
6170, 6600, 6230, 6820, 7260, 7270 and 7610 text GO <handset model>,,1234
2951. Ex. For Nokia 6600 text GO N6600,, 1234. Make sure that you type in the tw
commas before the 1234 PIN.
3. Enter 1234 when asked for PIN to save the settings.
4. Send an MMS message for only ₱5.00 to activate the service.
Promo ends June 30, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1265, Series of 20

Commencement speaker

DANS. Multi-awarded artist and pioneering arts educator.

NOTED visual artist Araceli-Limcaco-Dans will be the commencement speaker at the graduation rites of Feati University at the PICC on April 17.

Dans, a much-awarded artist and pioneering arts educator, will talk about the values graduates need to lead a fulfilling and meaningful life, and the role of the arts in the formation of insightful, sensitive and service-oriented people.

MONTAGE

'StarStruck Superstar'

A special show, "StarStruck Superstar," is being performed every Sunday at Enchanted Kingdom until May 29. Director Freddie Santos has conceptualized a different show for every StarStruck Survivor. Top-billing the series of shows are Jennylyn Mercado, Rainier Castillo, Yasmien Kurdi, Mark Herras, Ryza and CJ.

Cascades in Cebu

After shows at Hard Rock Café and Araneta Coliseum, the still popular Cascades quintet is performing tonight at Waterfront Lahug in Cebu. Cascades fans may bring their LPs, CDs and other memorabilia to be autographed after the concert. Their new album, "After the Rain," will be on sale for the first time at the performance venue.

Orlina's photographs

Black and white photographs of Kyoto and Nara in Japan by sculptor Ramon Orlina will be exhibited at Lumiere Gallery in Makati (Call 812-2976). The exhibit will be open to the public starting tomorrow, and will run until May 7.

ORLINA. Exhibit at Lumiere Gallery in Makati.

'Mate-Rix'

Dreamscape, the popular amusement and family entertainment center at Robinsons Galleria, presents the live performances of the Mate-Rix, a trio of pretty and talented teenage singers and dancers at 3 p.m. today and on April 17, 23, 24 and May 1. They perform right before Dreamscape's musical presentation of the well-loved children's classic, "Snow White."

The members of Mate-Rix are bubbly teenagers Doreen Cardinal, Safel Subido and Lylyn Ungul. Doreen has front-acted for Lani Misalucha; Safel was a Metropop Star finalist, and Lylyn has acted in TV soaps like "Pangako sa 'Yo" and "Kahit Kailan." Call 636-2911 or 631-7594.

Mossimo Bikini Summit

The Mossimo Bikini Summit will hold its finals on April 30 at Araneta Coliseum, with 32 male and female candidates competing for top prizes. Call 910-0158 or 911-5555.

Movies on TV

On Cinemax, April 16 at 9 p.m., "Flatliners." April 17 at 9 a.m., "Against the Wall." 10:55 p.m., "Truman." April 18 at 9 a.m., "Music From Another Room." 4:15 p.m., "Jason and the Argonauts." 9 p.m., "Ghost." April 19 at 3:45 p.m., "Pal Joey." April 20 at 5:15 p.m., "Charade."

MTV Credit Card

Apply for a MTV Credit Card now and meet your favorite MTV VJs. Selected card applicants in Metro Manila who will apply until April 30 will get a chance to visit the MTV studios. Six lucky applicants will be randomly picked each week for a chance to greet their favorite MTV VJs and experience how MTV shows are taped.

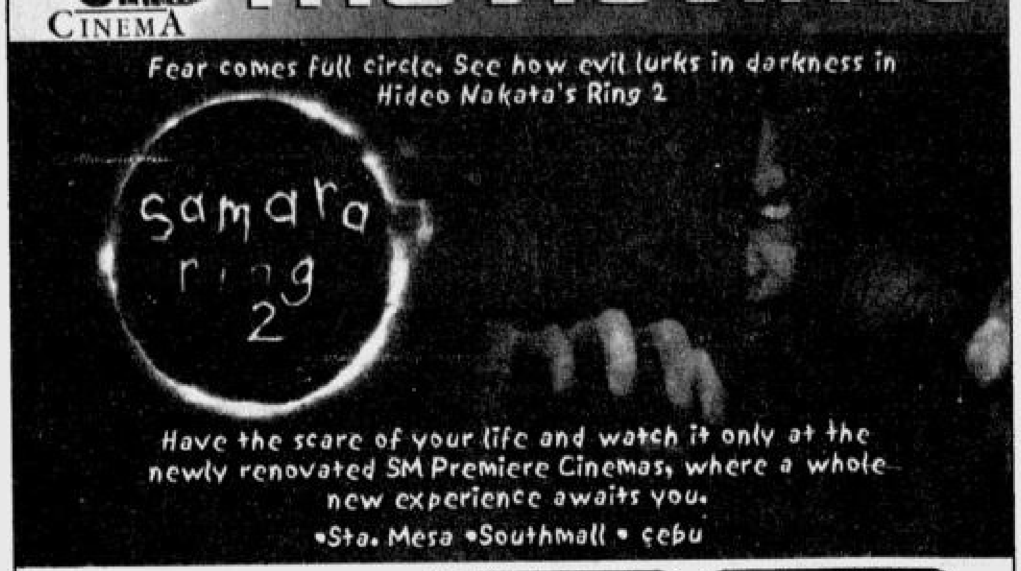
The MTV Credit Card is a co-branded card between Equitable Card and MTV Networks Asia that's bundled with perks, privileges, discounts and freebies from its partner merchants. Log on to www.equitable-card.com/mtv.

Debutante

Cynthia Celine V. Butcon, daughter of Carlito R. Butcon and Amor L. Villegas, celebrated her 18th birthday in Gingoog City last March 28. The debutante is a sophomore in Electronics and Communications Engineering at Mindanao Polytechnic State College in Cagayan de Oro City, and Sangguniang Kabataan chairperson of Barangay 10, Gingoog City.

BUTCON. Celebrated 18th birthday last March 28.

SM CINEMA movietime™


Fear comes full circle. See how evil lurks in darkness in Hideo Nakata's Ring 2
samara ring 2
Have the scare of your life and watch it only at the newly renovated SM Premiere Cinemas, where a whole new experience awaits you.
•Sta. Mesa •Southmall • cebu

FOR INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING, SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA
CALLUS@ 833-9999
VISITUS@ www.smcinema.co

SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE

WICKEDLY DELICIOUS
AN UNBRIDLED MAD-LOVE MASTERPIECE
Love me if you dare....
Are you game?

The No.1 Smash Hit from France and still touching the hearts of Filipinos nationwide!

Two bestfriends, and a single game. The rule is simple; hold the tin can, meet the dare.

Are you game?

LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
MTRCB RATING:R 13

GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium cinema
1. THE WEDDING DATE
11:30 FS / 12:00 MI / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00
8:00 / 9:30 LFS / 10:00 LMI / 11:30 END
2. FINDING NEVERLAND
11:05 FS / 11:35 MI / 1:40 / 3:45 / 5:50
7:55 / 9:35 LFS / 10:00 LMF / 11:40 END
☎ 633-6976

sm megamall cinema 1
HIDE AND SEEK
12:05 FS / 12:40 MF / 2:55 / 5:10
7:25 / 9:05 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 11:20 END
☎ 633-1601

sm cebu cinema 1
SAMARA: RING 2
12:00 FS / 12:18 MF / 2:36 / 4:54 / 7:12
9:12 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:30 END
☎ (032) 231-3876

sm manila cinema 6
MS. CONGENIALITY 2
10:30 FS / 10:50 MF / 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20
7:30 / 9:25 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 11:50 END
☎ 523-9240

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 SAMARA: RING 2
3 FINDING NEVERLAND
4 SAHARA
5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 THE WEDDING DATE
7 CLOSER
8 THE PACIFIER
9 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
10 RESERVED
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

sm city fairview
1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 BOOGEYMAN
3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
4 SAHARA
5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 FINDING NEVERLAND
7 SAMARA: RING 2
8 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
9 THE PACIFIER
10 ROBOTS
11 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE smcinemaexclusive
12 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

sm city north edsa
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
5 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 FINDING NEVERLAND
7 SAHARA
8 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city manila
1 THE WEDDING DATE
2 THE PACIFIER
3 FINDING NEVERLAND
4 SAHARA
5 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
7 ALONE IN THE DARK
8 CLOSER
9 SAMARA: RING 2
10 BOOGEY MAN
11 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
12 HIDE AND SEEK

sm city sta. mesa
1 SAMARA: RING 2
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 FINDING NEVERLAND
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 BOOGEYMAN
7 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
8 SAHARA
9 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
10 THE PACIFIER

sm city southmall
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SAMARA: RING 2
4 THE WEDDING DATE
5 HIDE AND SEEK
6 THE PACIFIER
7 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
8 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
9 SAHARA
10 FINDING NEVERLAND

sm city bicutan
1 SAHARA
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 SAMARA: RING 2
4 ONG BAK: THA THAI WARRIOR

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 SAMARA: RING 2
2 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
3 SAHARA
4 THE WEDDING DATE

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 FINDING NEVERLAND
3 HOSTAGE
4 CLOSER
5 BOOGEYMAN
6 THE PACIFIER

sm city baguio
1 BE COOL
2 SAMARA: RING 2
3 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
4 THE PACIFIER

sm city batangas
1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 CLOSER
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 FINDING NEVERLAND

sm city dasmariñas
1 FINDING NEVERLAND
2 BE COOL
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city bacoor
1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 FINDING NEVERLAND
3 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
4 SAMARA: RING 2
5 SAHARA
6 THE PACIFIER
7 THE WEDDING DATE
8 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

sm city marilao
1 FINDING NEVERLAND
2 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
3 THE PACIFIER
4 BE COOL

sm city lucena
1 HOSTAGE
2 FINDING NEVERLAND
3 FINAL CUT
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 SAMARA: RING 2
2 RESERVED
3 THE PACIFIER
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
5 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
6 HITCH
7 HOSTAGE
8 SAHARA

sm city iloilo
1 CONFIDENCE
2 RESERVED
3 BE COOL
4 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
5 HOSTAGE
6 CLOSER
7 RESERVED
8 ALONE IN THE DARK

sm city davao
1 SAHARA
2 CONFIDENCE
3 SON OF THE MASK 2
4 BE COOL
5 CLOSER
6 HOSTAGE

sm city cagayan de oro
1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 CLOSER
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 HOSTAGE

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

smmoviepromo
3 DAY SALE
April 15·16·17
SM City DAVAO
SM City CAGAYAN DE ORO
SM City BICUTAN
SM City LUCENA
SM City MARILAO
BUY 2 MOVIE TICKETS
GET FREE
Cheeky Curlz

See mechanics poster for details. Per DTI-Quezon 029 Series of 2005
See mechanics poster for details. Per DTI-Bulacan 016 Series of 2005
See mechanics poster for details. Per DTI-OCFO 070 Series of 2005
See mechanics poster for details. Per DTI-MCAR 436 Series of 2005
See mechanics poster for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. B3-179 Series of 2005

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
Voted Best Movie Theater
-Philippine Daily Inquirer's 2004 Yearend Reader Survey
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 SAMARA RING 2
12:35, 3:10, 5:45
8:20 10:50,
PG -13

2 SAHARA
11:55, 2:46, 5:35
8:25, 11:05
PG -13

3 WEDDING DATE
11:10, 1:30, 3:50
6:10, 8:30, 10:50
PG 13

4 FINDING NEVERLAND
12:05, 2:15, 4:25
6:35, 8:45, 10:55
GP

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

FINDING NEVERLAND GP 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55 WEDDING DATE PG13 - 10:30 p.m.	SAHARA PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20
THE RING 2 PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	HIDE AND SEEK PG13 12:50,3:10,5.30,7:50,10:10	WEDDING DATE PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Gamitan
4 Sahara
5 Ong Bak

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Ong Bak
2 Kapitbahay
3 Under Renovation
4 Under Renovation
5 Sahara
6 Hide and Seek

starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
1 Legendary Street Fighter
2 Rental Reservation

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 THE WEDDING DATE
11:10, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
PG13

CINEMA 2 FINDING NEVERLAND
11:10, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:10
GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
APRIL 28,2005 "LOVE IN APRIL" - PILITA CORRALES 7:30PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

① WEDDING DATE
MTRCB: PG-13
12:30, 2:50, 5.10, 7:30, 9:50

② FINDING NEVERLAND
MTRCB: GP
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

③ THE SPONGEBOB
MTRCB. GP
12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00

④ SAHARA
MTRCB. PG-13
10:40, 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE SAMARA (RING 2)
MTRCB. PG-13 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

Enjoy Double Treats
Get one (1) free URBANSPA Express Massage or a P250 Urban Spa cash coupon for every single purchase of four (4) Shang Cineplex (Cinema 1-4) or Two (2) Premiere Theatre tickets.
[illegible]

Chocolate Delights
Get four (4) FREE Spongebob Squarepants chocolates for every purchase of one (1) Spongebob Movie Ticket and a minimum single receipt purchase of P150 at the Shang Cinebar.
Promo Period April 6 - 19, 2005
See posters for details
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-257 Series of 2005

Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 4 P150
Premiere Theatre P[illegible] [illegible]
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 / 633-4735 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

FALLON AND BARRYMORE. Topbill unusual love triangle.

JOLIE AND PITT. Portray spouses who are assassins working for competing organizations

Romantic-action films light up the big screen

By Nestor U. Torre

MAKE way for three new romantic-action movies: "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," "Into the Blue" and "Fever Pitch," starring Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, Paul Walker and Jessica Alba, and Drew Barrymore and Jimmy Fallon, respectively.

In "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," Pitt and Jolie play a suburban couple with a seemingly ordinary marriage. But, it turns out that they both lead exciting secret lives: Quite unbeknownst to each other, they are in fact legendary assassins working for competing organizations! And, when the truth comes out, the Smiths end up in each other's cross-hairs.

Notoriety

Incidentally, this film has acquired a bit of notoriety, because it was while Pitt and Jolie were working on this production that he separated from his wife, Jennifer Aniston.

Naturally, people added one and one together, came up with 11! They concluded that Jolie's famous charms had seduced Pitt into ending his marriage. But, both stars swear on a stack of Premiere magazines that sparks *didn't* fly between them when they were shooting their romantic-action film.

For their part, Paul Walker and Jessica Alba are cast as scuba-diving friends in "Into the Blue." Their generally placid existence gets charged with danger and excitement when they discover the sunken wreckage of a plane off the Florida coast. The plane contains illegal cargo—cocaine.

The scuba divers make a pact to keep quiet about their discovery. Instead, they excavate a shipwreck that holds a fortune in gold, before a rival treasure hunter beats them to it. But, their plan goes awry when smugglers close in on the location of the plane, and one of them makes a fatal decision that quickly turns the treasure hunter into the hunted. Ashley Scott and Scott Caan also star.

Perfect guy

Finally, "Fever Pitch" is a sports comedy about a successful woman (Drew Barrymore) who thinks she's finally found the perfect guy (Jimmy Fallon). Everything seems wonderful until baseball season begins, and she has to compete with his first true love: the Boston Red Sox.

So, the film turns out to be an unusual love triangle involving a guy, a girl—and a baseball team!

The interesting thing about this production is the fact that it was overtaken by events. In past years, the Boston Red Sox wasn't a winning team, so the movie's plot followed suit. However, the team did much better last year, so its script had to undergo several revisions to keep up with its improving fortunes!

New comedian

"Fever Pitch" is also being talked about because it could turn out to be the breakthrough film of handsome new comedian Jimmy Fallon.

An alumnus of TV's popular comedy show, "Saturday Night Live," Fallon has been a logical choice for big-time movie stardom, but it took star-producer Barrymore to make that prospect a reality by tapping him to be her costar.

This isn't just a generous act on her part, it could also be a canny move, because if Fallon and the film are hits, she will also benefit from their success—tit for tat!

---

10 years of service

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

> *"Too many young people do not realize that they themselves are responsible for giving a worthwhile meaning to their lives."*
> *—Pope John Paul II*
> *World Youth Day, Manila (1995)*

WHEN Pope John Paul II spoke to the youth gathered for a prayer vigil at Rizal Park in 1995, he couldn't possibly have known the extent by which his words would evoke a vision.

Dr. Vivian A. Gonzales made her way to Rizal Park that evening with her daughter, a World Youth Day facilitator. In the back of her pick-up truck was a replica of Our Lady of Guadalupe she brought home from Mexico in 1993. Despite the massive crowd, Dr. Gonzales secured a spot close to the altar. As volunteer of Caritas Manila, she traveled with the 8 X 11-ft image of Our Lady and visited schools and city jails.

Challenges

After the Pope's visit, Vivian received word about her appointment as Dean of Students of UPLB. Students' Transformation and Enrichment for Truth (STET) was the Development Management paradigm she envisioned to respond to the challenges that faced UP students at the time.

"I was bothered by survey results that reflected that social concerns ranked low among students' priorities. We were producing graduates who were intellectually capable, but were indifferent to the needs of others," she says.

As Dean of Students, she embarked on a series of Values Integration and Promotion (VIP) seminars for selected freshmen in SY 1995-1996, before institutionalizing the program as an activity for leaders of the university's 180 student organizations.

This year, CHED endorsed the Third Annual National STET-VIP/NSTP Convention, Kabalikat Awards, and Alumni Homecoming with the theme: "Reinvigorating NSTP Through a Decade of STET-VIP." It will be held on May 2-5 at the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception Cursillo and Retreat House, F. Torres St., Davao City.

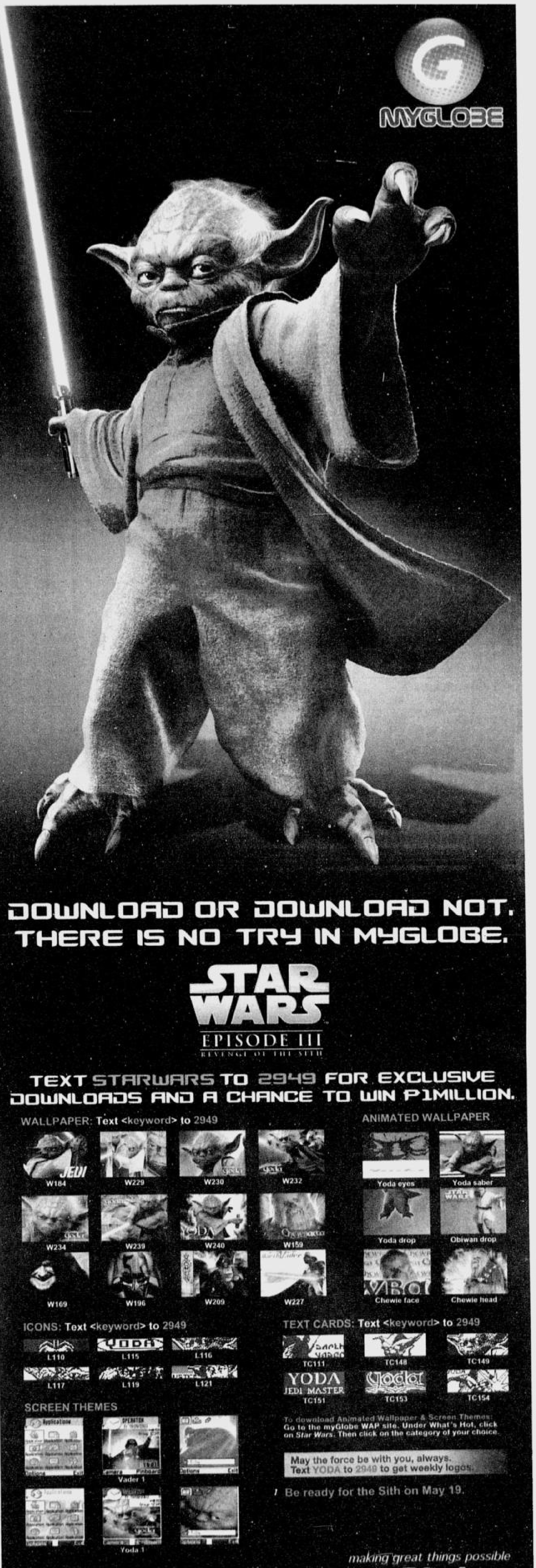
Highlights

One of the convention's highlights is the First Nationwide Search for Outstanding STET-VIP/NSTP-CWTS Student. The 30th STET-VIP/NSTP-CWTS Qualifying Course will be conducted from April 29 to May 1.

Looking at community service as essential to prayer and virtues development enables those trained in the program to respond to Pope John Paul II's call to "save their generation from the futility, frustration, and emptiness in which so many of their contemporaries find themselves."

Call (049) 536-6018, (049) 537-8635, or e-mail: stervip@strivefoundation.com. Email us at mandynavasero@photopro.com

GONZALES. UPLB's Dean of Students.



MYGLOBE
DOWNLOAD OR DOWNLOAD NOT.
THERE IS NO TRY IN MYGLOBE.
STAR WARS
EPISODE III
REVENGE OF THE SITH
TEXT STARWARS TO 2949 FOR EXCLUSIVE DOWNLOADS AND A CHANCE TO WIN P1MILLION.
WALLPAPER: Text <keyword> to 2949
W184
W229
W230
W232
W234
W239
W240
W159
W169
W196
W209
W227
ANIMATED WALLPAPER
Yoda eyes
Yoda saber
Yoda drop
Obiwan drop
Chewie face
Chewie head
ICONS: Text <keyword> to 2949
L110
L115
L116
L117
L119
L121
TEXT CARDS: Text <keyword> to 2949
TC111
TC148
TC149
TC151
TC153
TC154
SCREEN THEMES
Vader 1
Yoda 1
To download Animated Wallpaper & Screen Themes: Go to the myGlobe WAP site. Under What's Hot, click on Star Wars. Then click on the category of your choice.
May the force be with you, always. Text YODA to 2949 to get weekly logos.
Be ready for the Sith on May 19.
making great things possible
Globe HANDYPHONE
©2005 Lucasfilm Ltd. & TM All Rights Reserved.

Rates:
P15.00 for weekly logo
P15.00 for logos and text cards
P20.00 for colored and animated wallpaper
P30.00 for screen themes

Activate MMS and GPRS on your phone now!
1. For a list of compatible handsets, send NOKIA, ERICSSON or SAMSUNG (depending on your handset model) to 2365. Regular text messaging charges apply.
2. Text GO <handset model> to 2951 to get your phone's settings. Ex. GO N3650. For Nokia 6170, 6600, 6230, 6820, 7260, 7270 and 7610 text GO <handset model>,,1234 to 2951. Ex. For Nokia 6600 text GO N6600,, 1234. Make sure that you type in the two commas before the 1234 PIN.
3. Enter 1234 when asked for PIN to save the settings.
4. Send an MMS message for only P5.00 to activate the service.

Promo ends June 30, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1265, Series of 2005.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA
632-9115/16

1 THE PACIFIER • THX 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	6 THE WEDDING DATE 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
2 SAMARA - RING 2 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	7 HIDE AND SEEK 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
3 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS 11:00 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00	8 BOSO 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 ONG BAK 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	9 CLOSER 1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00
5 SAHARA 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00	10 MS. CONGENIALITY 2 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA
538-7809 to 12

1 SAHARA	11:10 1:40 4:15 6:55 9:40
2 ONG BAK 10:40 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	5 SAMARA RING 2 10:40 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
3 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS 10:30 12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00	6 BOSO 10:40 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:40
4 THE WEDDING DATE 10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 10:00	7 HIDE AND SEEK 10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 ONG BAK 11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10	5 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 8:50 10:30
2 THE PACIFIER 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	6 SAMARA RING 2 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30
3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2 10:45 1:15 3:45 6:15 9:00	7 SAHARA 11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30
4 HIDE AND SEEK 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00	8 THE WEDDING DATE 10:50 1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30

NOVALICHES
935-3229/31

1 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS 11:00 1:00 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30	5 THE WEDDING DATE 11:40 1:50 4:00 6:10 8:25
2 SAMARA RING 2 10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25	6 SAHARA 11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25
3 ASTERIX AND OBELIX 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:10 8:30	7 RESERVE
4 HIDE AND SEEK 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25	8 RESERVE

PIONEER
687-5378

1 SAHARA
2 THE PACIFIER
3 SAMARA RING 2
4 THE WEDDING DATE

CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 BE COOL
2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 PILUKANG ITIM

CAINTA
240-4661

1 ONG BAK
2 SAMARA RING 2
3 SAHARA
4 THE WEDDING DATE

Meet the stars...

Jaycee Parker • Gwen Garci
Ella V. and Katya Santos

Robinsons Movieworld - Cinema Lobby
ERMITA (Apr. 16)

watch it exclusively at
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA and ERMITA

Rated R-18 by MTRCB

april 13-19

STA. ROSA
(049) 837-0907

1 SAHARA
2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
3 NANG NAK
4 CLOSER
5 CURSED

LIPA
(043) 757-3664
(043) 312-5870

1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 5 CHILDREN AND IT
4 HIDE AND SEEK
5 CURSED

DASMARIÑAS
(046) 852-2125
(046) 416-4332

1 BE COOL
2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 SAMARA RING 2
5 BOOGEYMAN

ANGELES
(045) 892-2348

1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 CLOSER
4 THE PACIFIER

IMUS
(046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 PILUKANG ITIM
2 THE WEDDING DATE
3 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
4 SAMARA RING 2
5 BE COOL
6 SAHARA

STARMILLS
(045) 875-1927
(045) 961-5270

1 HAROLD AND KUMAR
2 BOOGEYMAN
3 THE PACIFIER
4 CLOSER
5 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
6 CURSED

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453
(034) 441-0459

1 HIDE AND SEEK
2 CLOSER
3 HOSTAGE
4 THE FINAL CUT
5 CURSED
6 SPANGLISH

ILOILO
(033) 336-8070

1 BE COOL
2 CONFIDENCE
3 CLOSER
4 HOSTAGE
5 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
6 LITTLE BLACK BOOK

MOVIE PASS
MOVIE PASS

The Perfect Gift All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7915 to 47 locals 14 and 15

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

AYALA MALLS
Lovemall!

ALOHA YO
Featuring music from Disney's LILO & STITCH ISLAND FAVORITES

AYALA CENTER
April 21 & 22 6:30 pm
April 23 & 24 11:30 am, 3pm & 4pm
Glorietta Activity Center

ALABANG TOWN
April 29, 30 & May 1
3pm & 4pm
Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
May 6 to 8
11 am & 4pm
Activity Center

Also showing at Market Market on May 13, 4pm & 6pm
Pavilion Mall on May 14, 5pm
Metropoint on May 15, 6pm

An all reserved seats night in each mall awaits Discount Plus Card members

TOWER RECORDS Lovemall!

Catch Lilo's summer musical show live at the Ayala Malls featuring Bea Binene as LILO Ohyana Ortaleza and Nadine Samonte as NANI Dion Ignacio and Tyrone Perez as DAVID Paul Salas as DANIEL Plus the SOP boys - Macmac Emil Edward and Yexel Directed by Freddie Santos

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Anson Emporium Appliance Madness April 8-18, 2005	Town Sale / Off-Road Show 2005 April 15-17, 2005	BPI Automadness Opening Ceremonies April 21, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT
A Day with An Artist
April 23 & 30, 2005

GREENBELT 4 Onstage
REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
Whose Wife is it Anyway?
at REP's GLOBE THEATER for the Month of April
For inquiries, please call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue.
For inquiries, please call 757-7117.

AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS GB4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 SAMARA (RING 2)	2 THE WEDDING DATE	3 SAHARA	4 PELUKANG ITIM
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SAMARA (RING 2)	2 FINDING NEVERLAND	3 THX SAHARA 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR	5 THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS	6 THE WEDDING DATE	7 HIDE & SEEK
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SAHARA 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	2 THE WEDDING DATE 11:10, 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SAMARA (RING 2) 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE WEDDING DATE 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 CLOSER 2:40, 4:45, 6:50, 8:55, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FINDING NEVERLAND 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SAHARA 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE WEDDING DATE	2 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS		
	3 SAMARA (RING 2)	4 FINDING NEVERLAND	5 SAHARA	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SAMARA (RING 2)	2 THE PACIFIER	3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2	4 SAHARA

Performace unlike any other

The THX Certified Ayala Cinemas offer moviegoers the ultimate cinematic experience. Every THX Certified Cinema is designed & tested to ensure that it meets all standards for sound & picture excellence.

- Accurate, true-to-life images
- Highly intelligible dialogue & decreased distortion
- A naturally balanced & planned sight lines so that every seat in the house is the "best in the house"
- A wide frequency range that delivers higher highs & lower lows
- A clearer, more realistic movie-going experience

The Result: CONSISTENT UNCOMPROMISING PERFORMANCE

THX CERTIFIED AYALA CINEMAS
Alabang Town Center
Glorietta 4
Greenbelt 3
THE BIGGEST THX CINEMA OPERATOR IN THE COUNTRY

AYALA MALLS Lovemall! THX AYALA CINEMAS

P75!

Rated GP Great Price

At the new Glorietta 1 cinemas.
All-digital-sound.
All at one Great Price.

*Price subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS

Customer Service text hotline. 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

All-Digital Cinemas

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7515

Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00

① Pelukang Itim
② SpongeBob Squarepants
③ Ong Bak
④ Finding Neverland

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

⑤ Sahara
⑥ Samara (Ring 2)
⑦ The Wedding Date

EVENTS! EVENTS!

MARKET! MARKET!

SALE! SALE!

TIME TO HARVEST THE BEST DEALS

April 15-16 10am-12midnight
April 17 10am-9pm

Special Events:

April 15
Star Records presents
Michael Cruz & Johann Escañan
6 pm, Activity Center

April 16
Axe: Choose the Girl, Spend Her Money
11am-6pm, Activity Center

April 17 to 20
GO F.I.S.H. Bazaar
11am-9pm, Activity Center

Dramas crowded out by musicals, revivals

WASHINGTON AND LANGE. Star in "Julius Caesar" and "The Glass Menagerie," respectively.

NEW YORK—Theatergoers in New York are looking forward to a feast of classic drama and big stars this spring, from Tennessee Williams to Shakespeare, but one thing in short supply on Broadway is new plays.

The high cost of mounting a play in a theater seating 500 or more people means that unknown plays are often deemed too risky, even if their authors are big names.

Openings in the coming months include "The Glass Menagerie" with Jessica Lange and Christian Slater, "A Streetcar Named Desire" starring Natasha Richardson and Kathleen Turner in Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

One-man shows

Denzel Washington is also set to tread the boards in "Julius Caesar," and James Earl Jones will play in Ernest Thompson's "On Golden Pond." Excluding one-man shows by the likes of Whoopi Goldberg, new non-musicals on Broadway can be counted on the fingers of one hand this season, down from 13 in the last.

Of the five, "Democracy" and "The Pillowman" were already tested at London's National Theater and "Doubt" has played successfully off Broadway.

David Mamet's Pulitzer-prize winner from 1984, "Glengarry Glen Ross," will be revived on Broadway in April, with Oscar nominee Alan Alda in the cast, but his new play, "Romance," will open at the small, off-Broadway Atlantic Theater Company.

"Broadway has become very difficult in terms of how much money it costs," said Neil Pepe, Atlantic's artistic director who is directing "Romance." "We're doing something that would be more risky," he said, adding that as a not-for-profit company the Atlantic relies on donations to finance plays that typically do not cover their costs.

Tall order

With budgets typically around $2 million on Broadway and many more seats to fill, a Broadway show needs to spend more on advertising, and run for 20 to 30 weeks to break even, Pepe said, a tall order even for revivals of popular plays.

Producer Roy Gabay scored one of last season's big hits with the new play, "Frozen," only to see his revival of 1983 Pulitzer winner, "'Night Mother," close early despite its big name stars, Edie Falco ("The Sopranos") and Brenda Blethyn.

"It's all about minimizing risk as much as you can," said Gabay, who is now working on a revival of "Steel Magnolias," an off-Broadway hit from 1987 that was made into a Hollywood film starring Julia Roberts.

Typical of the problems faced by new plays on Broadway was "Gem of the Ocean," the ninth play in playwright August Wilson's 10-play cycle chronicling the African-American experience through each decade of the 1900s.

The opening was delayed in November due to a last-minute budget shortfall, a hole filled by San Francisco theater backer Carole Shorenstein Hays, who says she is driven by an almost religious belief in the importance of new American plays.

Risk

"The risk is not doing new work," she said. "It is incumbent on producers to present new American works on Broadway. That is what Broadway is and should always be." Despite her faith in the play and reasonable reviews, ticket sales did not hold up, and the play closed in February.

But, Hays is philosophical about its fate, noting that theater is a fickle business. "These things that have a hard time reaching a wider audience, in the years to come, maybe they'll settle in in a different way," she said.

The season's final newcomer is "Brooklyn Boy" by Pulitzer winner, Donald Margulies, about a successful Jewish writer who returns to his home to see his dying father.

Lukewarm to good reviews have kept attendance at between 63 percent and 90 percent in the first seven weeks, and artistic director Lynne Meadow said she was pleased by its reception.

"There's a high risk involved in doing new work, but the 'Streetcar Named Desire' of tomorrow is hopefully the 'Brooklyn Boy' of today," she said. "We have to keep refreshing the stock. We have to create plays that will be done tomorrow."

Mission

That mission may not always fit with the commercial pressure on big theaters. Musicals and big-name shows such as Billy Crystal's comic review, "700 Sundays," are a safer bet.

"Broadway is more of a place for musicals," said Gabay, who has been producing for 11 years. "Forget revivals or new plays, the play itself is phasing out on Broadway. It's a tourist-driven market, where a musical has a much broader appeal." *Reuters*

Who will do the teaching?

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME people who have finally realized the importance of film and video literacy are moving for the inclusion of film education in our schools' curriculum. This is a key development in our awareness of the importance of the cinema and TV in our lives today, but it's easier said than done.

The intention is great, but the big question is: Who will do the teaching?

Some years ago, we were asked to teach film education to 100 high school teachers, with the view in mind of training them so well that they would then go back to their high schools and teach film literacy to their students.

Transition

Alas, that didn't really happen. We did our best to teach "film language" to the teachers, but when we quizzed them at the end of the workshop, only 20 of them appeared to have successfully made the transition from print and literature to the film medium's visual language.

Thus, only those 20 could have inculcated real film literacy in their students. As for the 80 who didn't do well, the stumbling block that they couldn't hurdle was their lifelong preference for the verbal language of literature.

This is a major problem, because people who come from the world of literature generally don't want to give up the "beautiful" language that is one of its hallmarks, in favor of the film medium's greater emphasis on action, image and tempo.

People who can't make this crucial shift generally expect film to do what literature does. This is a fallacy, because we're talking about two different languages here.

Another fallacy

When film can't seem to do what literature does, these people regard it to be an inferior medium. This is another fallacy, because film has in fact become *the* medium of modern times. Due to its visual language, it is even more powerful than literature in its effect on its audience.

It is this more powerful effect, for good or bad, that has made it so influential today, hence the desire of some people to teach film literacy to all of our college and/or high school students.

However, if even the teachers can't appreciate and understand the new visual language that gives the medium its power, we're back to our initial question: Who will do the teaching?

Impasse

Is there a way out of this impasse? Yes: Before laws are passed requiring the inclusion of film literacy courses in the curriculum, many teachers have to accept the fact that, to teach visual language well, they first have to give up their traditional dependence on and preference for literature, and strive harder to understand and "speak" this new medium on its own terms.

Only after thousands of teachers have been able to make this key transition can we realistically hope to make the bulk of our students truly film-literate.

'Madagascar' boosts island's tourism

ANTANANARIVO—Madagascar hopes the upcoming DreamWorks Animation SKG film, "Madagascar," will do for its tourism industry what "Out of Africa" did for Kenya's, tourism officials said recently.

DreamWorks is hoping for another hit with "Madagascar," a computer-animated film about four urban-dwelling animals, who escape from a New York zoo and go into culture shock when they arrive in the wilds of the huge Indian Ocean island.

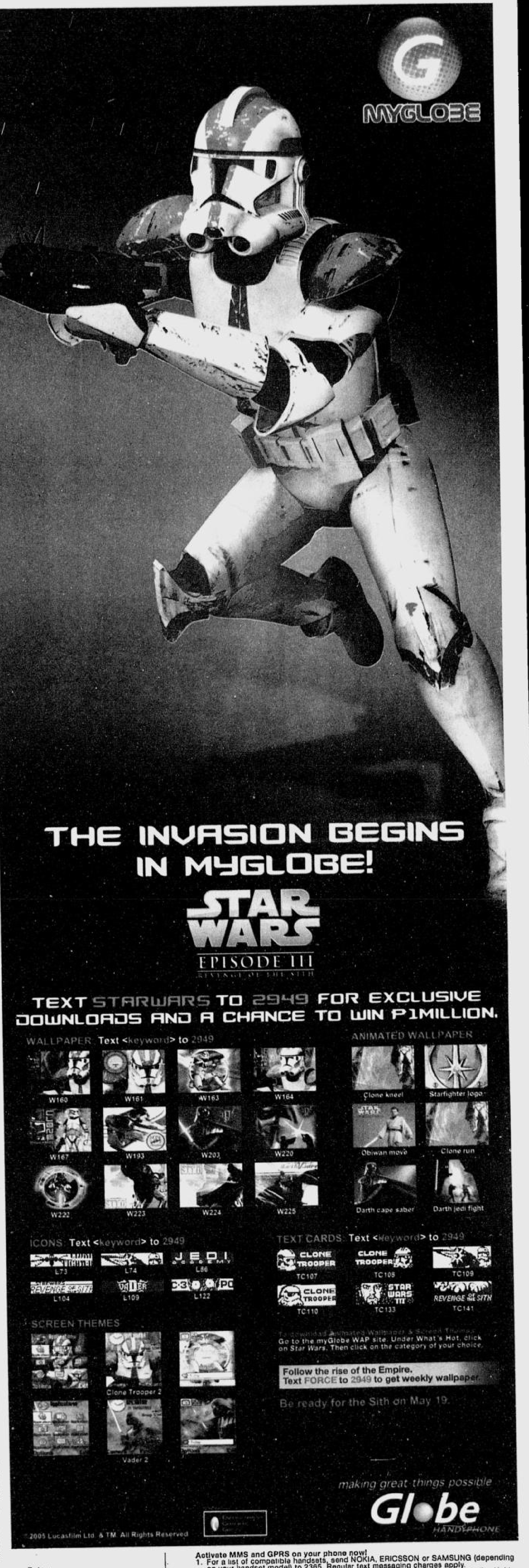
Voice performances

DreamWorks CEO Jeffrey Katzenberg told analysts the new film, featuring voice performances by Ben Stiller, Jada Pinkett Smith and Chris Rock, had performed better with California test audiences than the blockbuster "Shrek."

"'Out of Africa' was filmed in Kenya. That country saw a massive growth in tourism in the next five years," Henry Kartagener, president of a New York-based travel consultancy, told Reuters. "Out of Africa," starring Meryl Streep and Robert Redford, was released in 1985.

But, he warned that Madagascar could only benefit from the film if enough money was spent to market the island in travel agencies and tourist brochures as the film hits the box office.

Madagascar is home to tens of thousands of plant and animal species found nowhere else, including the legendary lemur, a family of primates unique to the island, that features in the DreamWorks cartoon. *Reuters*



TEXT STARWARS TO 2949 FOR EXCLUSIVE DOWNLOADS AND A CHANCE TO WIN P1MILLION.

WALLPAPER Text <keyword> to 2949

ANIMATED WALLPAPER

ICONS Text <keyword> to 2949

TEXT CARDS Text <keyword> to 2949

SCREEN THEMES

To download Animated Wallpaper & Screen Themes
Go to the myGlobe WAP site. Under What's Hot, click on Star Wars. Then click on the category of your choice.

Follow the rise of the Empire.
Text FORCE to 2949 to get weekly wallpaper.

Be ready for the Sith on May 19.

©2005 Lucasfilm Ltd. & TM. All Rights Reserved

Rates:
₱15.00 for logos and text cards
₱20.00 for weekly colored and animated wallpaper
₱30.00 for screen themes

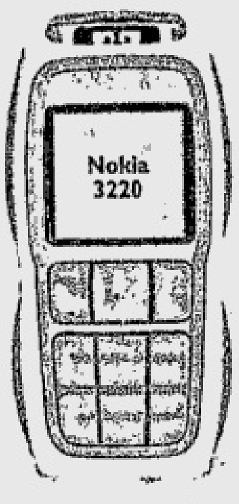
Activate MMS and GPRS on your phone now!
1. For a list of compatible handsets, send NOKIA, ERICSSON or SAMSUNG (depending on your handset model) to 2365. Regular text messaging charges apply.
2. Text GO <handset model> to 2951 to get your phone's settings. Ex. GO N3650. For Nokia 6170, 6600, 6230, 6820, 7260, 7270 and 7610 text GO <handset model>,,1234 to 2951. Ex. For Nokia 6600 text GO N6600,, 1234. Make sure that you type in the two commas before the 1234 PIN.
3. Enter 1234 when asked for PIN to save the settings.
4. Send an MMS message for only ₱5.00 to activate the service.

Promo ends June 30, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1265, Series of 2005

SMART GOLD
O2
Xda II mini
SMART GOLD
O2 Xda II mini
P958/month*
at Plan 3500
Pocket PC
*12 easy monthly payments! 0% interest!

With more bank-partners and credit cards accepted, SMART Gold offers you the latest, state-of-the-art handsets on installment up to 12 months – at 0% interest.

Simply pay using any participating credit card to avail of a flexible payment scheme on your SMART Gold phone package.
Subscribe to SMART Gold at the SMART Wireless Center nearest you today or call 888-1111 for more details.



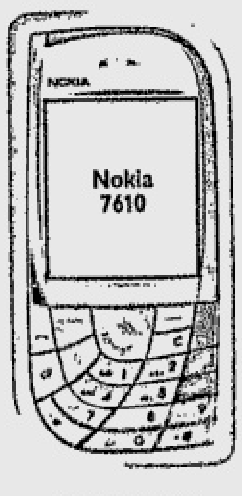
P558/month
at Plan 800

SMART Amazing Phone 2

P725/month
at Plan 1200

Sony Ericsson K700i

P379/month
at Plan 1800



P508/month
at Plan 2500

Sony Ericsson S700i

P417/month
at Plan 3500

0% interest available for Plans 800 & up in 6 & 12 months depending on plan availed.

Participating credit cards:

AIG Credit Cards BPI EXPRESS CREDIT citibank Diners Club International
Equitable CARD HSBC METROBANK Standard Chartered

Application requirements for new subscriptions and applicants transferring from other GSM networks: Valid I.D., Proof of billing address, and participating credit card with latest paid bill. To avail of FREE handsets, applicant must pay the advanced Monthly Service Fee (MSF) using a locally-issued participating credit card and enroll the account under the Auto Debit Agreement (ADA) where the monthly bills will be charged. Please allow our Customer Service Representatives to assist you with your subscription when you visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

You may also avail of other phone packages for FREE when you visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you today.

Approval of all applications is subject to SMART credit and financial requirements. All plans are covered by a 24-month lock-in period. Pre-termination charges apply. Credit card transactions are subject to bank approval. Deferred payment ONLY applies to TOTAL cash out amounting to P3,000 and above as required by participating banks. 0% interest valid only if monthly bills are paid in full.

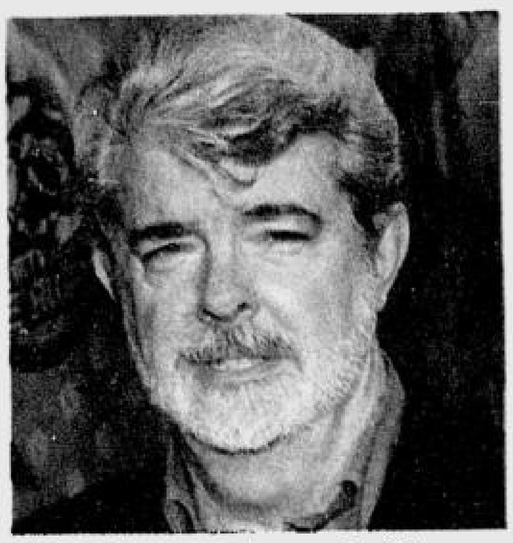
For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111; *888 using your SMART cellone; the SMART Corporate Hotline at *888; send a text message to 888 (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies); e-mail us at smartgold@smart.com.ph, visit our website at www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

I ♡ SMART
Simply Amazing!

Promo runs until May 31, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1347, Series of 2005.

SATURDAY*Special*

Lucas, Cameron tout new 3D films



LUCAS. Plans to re-release entire "Star Wars" series in 2007.

LOS ANGELES—If directors George Lucas and James Cameron get their way, a new wave of three-dimensional movies may soon replace goofy, 1950s flicks like "Bwana Devil" that played to bug-eyed audiences wearing blue and red glasses.

"Titanic" captain Cameron, "Stars Wars" master Lucas and "Lord of the Rings" head hobbit Peter Jackson want fans to forget those odd spectacles.

This new 3D wave, they say, converts their old titles to in-your-face entertainment that may reignite box-office fire for movies being re-released, and it puts audiences directly in the action of new films like Cameron's 2007 science fiction adventure, "Battle Angel."

Two versions

The new 3D movies don't replace traditional films. Audiences will get two versions of the same movie for different experiences, and studios and theaters get two movies to market.

Glasses are needed to view the new 3D, although the cardboard cut-outs with blue and red lenses are replaced by plastic frames and clear lenses.

Behind the push for 3D is a major industry overhaul called "digital cinema," which means projecting movies onscreen from digital files, as opposed to filmstrip, and showing them with projection systems that cost up to $100,000 a unit to install.

Digital Cinema is supported by Hollywood's major studios, who will sharply cut film-releasing costs because they no longer have to ship thousands of filmstrips around the world. They can transmit cheap digital files via satellite. Then, these files are stored on computer networks inside the theaters.

But, the transition will be expensive—perhaps costing as much as $3.6 billion over the next several years, industry watchers said.

Theater owners are demanding that the studios pay, and they want new types of content and movies to help pack houses for the digital cinema systems. The directors say they have one answer: Updating an old idea, 3D.

"We're making these movies, and we believe in the technology," Cameron told a recent convention of theatre owners in Las Vegas called ShoWest. "People are seeking out that premium 3D experience."

Lucas, whose "Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith," hits theaters next month, wants to re-release the entire "Star Wars" series in 3D starting in 2007, and Peter Jackson hinted that a re-release of the "Lord of the Rings" movies might be coming.

Origins

Three-dimensional movies date back to the origins of filmmaking before the 20th century, but it was in the 1950s that the 3D gimmick hit it big in Hollywood. Showman Sidney W. Pink was among the vanguard of film makers in the arena, producing 1952's "Bwana Devil," about man-eating lions.

One year later, Warner Bros. sat Vincent Price in audience laps in the 3D version of "House of Wax." It racked up $23.75 million at box office, a major haul at the time.

Warner Bros. is among the backers of new 3D after seeing a small box-office bonanza with 2004's 3D version of the Christmas movie, "The Polar Express," at giant-screen Imax theaters.

Event

"When you have a big movie like 'The Polar Express' and you convert it to an Imax presentation, you also add to the event itself. Creating an event is another way of helping market a film," said Dan Fellman, Warner Bros head of distribution.

"Polar Express" brought in $282 million at theaters worldwide, and $45 million of that was at Imax.

While old 3D movies with the funky blue-and-red glasses often made audiences dizzy, the new technology that converts 2D film to 3D digital pictures has reduced side effects, said Charles Swartz, executive director of the Entertainment Technology Center at the University

LUCAS/ A3-2

COSMETIC SURGEON & DERMATOLOGIST AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT
FACIAL WORLD
Voted Best Facial Care Center of The Philippines - 2003
SKIN WHITENING CENTER
1765 NICANOR GARCIA ST. [REPOSO], BEL-AIR, MAKATI CITY ☎ 890-2716
181 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Acropolis, LIBIS, Q.C.(beside Sushia Restaurant) ☎ 421-9357
314 ALABANG-ZAPOTE ROAD, LAS PIÑAS [near BF Resort & Casimiro Commercial] ☎ 872-0131
MRT AYALA STATION, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI ☎ 752-7170
41 TIMOG AVENUE, QUEZON CITY ☎ 372-5293
VISIT OUR WEBSITE : WWW.FACIALWORLDWEB.COM

FACIAL WITH SEAWEED MASK P 249.95 ONLY w/ FREE Check-up Pore Reducer & Skin Refiner Mask

PLASTIC SURGERY
SPECIAL PACKAGE RATES ONE MONTH ONLY!
(Prices up to April 30, 2005 only)

BREAST ENLARGEMENT	P110,000.00
NOSE LIFT	20,000.00
NOSE TRIM	15,000.00
NOSE LIFT W/ TRIMMING	30,000.00
EYEBAG REMOVAL	20,000.00
EYELID SURGERY	20,000.00
NIPPLE REDUCTION	15,000.00

FACIAL
Cleaning w/ laser, vacuum & massage & FREE 2 Check-ups
W/ FREE Skin Refiner Lotion & Whitener Cream on your 1st VISIT
P199.95 ONLY

WHOLE BODY WARTS REMOVAL P385.00 FREE CHECK-UP FOR 3 MONTHS & FREE PORE REDUCER SKIN TONER

TRY OUR NEW UNDERARM QUICK WHITE CREAM AND BE SURPRISED! A WHITER UNDERARM IN JUST 7 DAYS

Discover An Exciting WORLD
WCT Kiddie Academy
Saturday Classes Start Today or Rolling
Saturdays: 8:30-10:30 / 10.30-12:30NN / 2-4PM / 4-6PM
- Speech Dynamics
- Fluency & Mastery of English
- Power Talking Skills
- English for Foreigners
- Personality Enhancement
- Rapid Reading & Comprehension

KIDDIE ACADEMY
(3 TO 12 yrs old)
Speech Arts, Theater Arts, English Fluency, Grammar, Reading & Comprehension, Character Bldg., Personality Dev
- Glamour Ride or Finishing Course
- IELTS • TSE • TOEFL
- Private Tutoring - All Courses
- Corporate Training

WCT Wilma Cruz-Tapalla
ACADEME OF SPEECH AND PERSONALITY
SINCE 1967
www.wctacademe.com

LEGARDA, SAMPALOC 2400 Rizal Hall, Arellano University	GREENHILLS 55 Annapolis	ORTIGAS CENTER Meralco Ave.
736-7656 736-7657 736-7644	722-7955 723-4118 726-8768	638-8034 or 736-7657

new arrival
BEAT THE HEAT WITH big savings.
Hydration Bladder 2.5 LITERS
@P 399.00 only

Hurry! Offer is good up to April 15 to April 30, 2005 only! (cash basis only)
store shop
outdoor Lifestyle company
• ORTIGAS: 635-4733 • MAKATI: 892-2216 • ALABANG: 850-3769 • BACOOR: (046) 970-8083 • BINAN: (049) 411-5073 • PAMPANGA: (045) 961-1150 • URDANETA: (075) 568-3664 • LIPA: (043) 312-2055 • ILOILO: (033) 320-2045 • SM CEBU: (032) 232-0337 • AYALA CEBU: (032) 233-5796 • CAGAYAN DE ORO: (088) 859-2308
For inquiries call 372-4485 / 372-6793

SM Appliance Center
get a chance to Win over P1 million worth of prizes
With every purchase of aircon or electric fan
Hot Summer Cool Prizes
more than 8,000 instant prizes at stake
OR
get a chance to win
5 CANON digital cameras
ONE OF 5 SONY playstation2
5 PHILIPS dvd players
march 26 to may 31

Per DTI-Permit No. 1693, Series of 2005

CAMERON. Updating an old idea.

Lucas, Cameron tout new 3D films

From page A3-1

of Southern California.

Swartz said that some technical issues remain, but he also believes the time is ripe for a renaissance. "When you look at the movies that are most successful today like 'Spiderman 2,' they tend to be movies in which there is a lot of opportunity to use depth to make the movie even more compelling." In-Three Inc. is one of the companies that converts a 2D feature film into 3D at a basic cost of $4.5 million per movie.

The cost changes based on the complexity of the feature.

Chief catalyst

Michael Kaye, chief executive of In-Three, thinks 3D will become a chief catalyst to the rollout of digital cinema systems because it changes the focus for theater owners from spending money on the systems to making money from them.

"The focus is on the content that uses digital cinema to get it on screen," said Kaye. "Exhibitors have all said that 3D was the first reason they had to go digital." Another company behind the 3D push, called Real D, has convinced Mann Theaters to install their 3D delivery system at the famed Grauman's Chinese Theatre complex in Hollywood.

"3D is going to succeed this time" because of new digital production and releasing, said Real D chief Michael Lewis.

Cameron obviously agrees. At ShoWest, he had this to say: "I'm giving you plenty of warning," he said. "You've got two years to get ready."

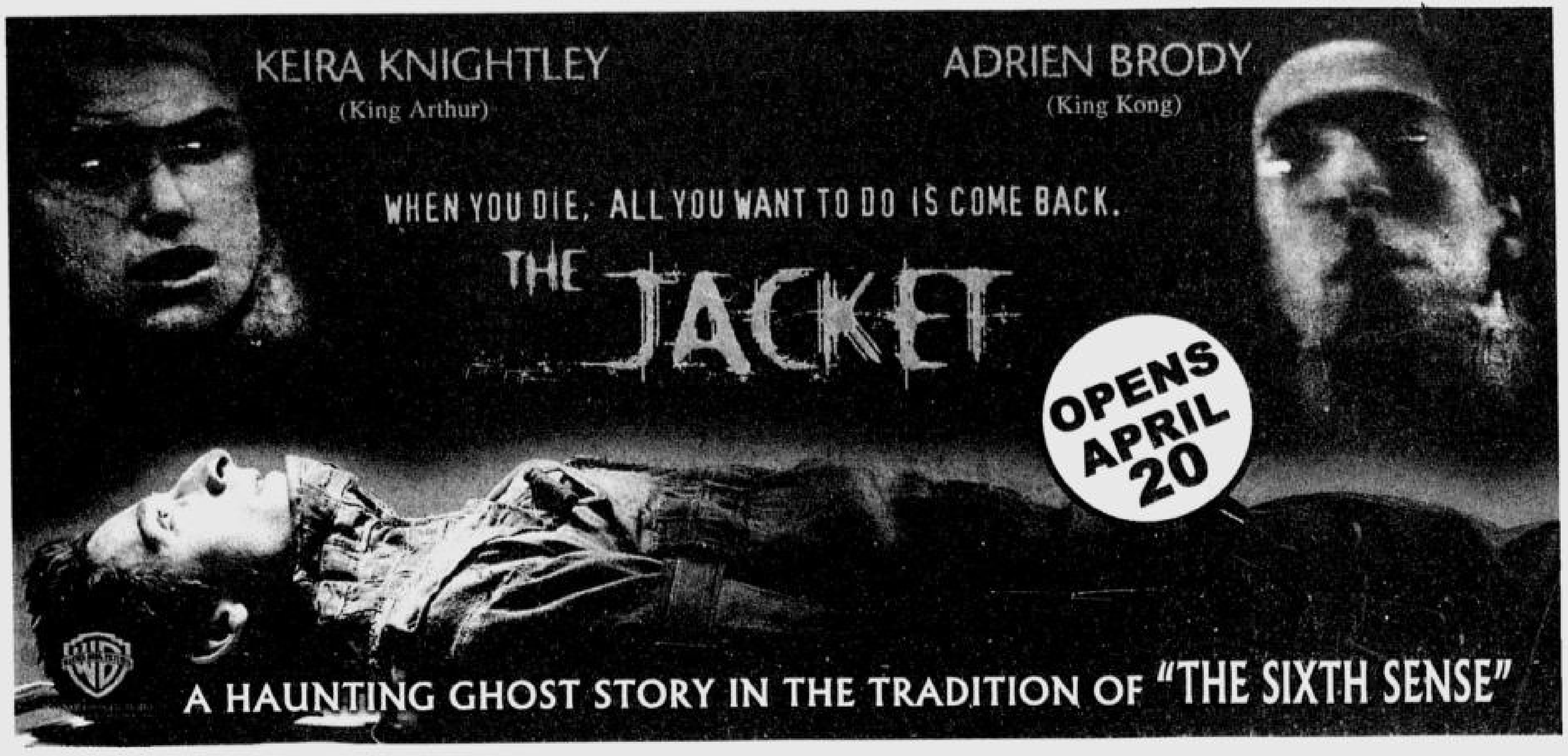
Reuters

Constant change

From page A3-8

in, our house gets knocked down. We try to build a permanent home in this changing world. We take shelter in the perfect wife, husband, father, family, house, etc. But sooner or later, they change.

Eternal and permanent spirit souls that we are, we are always looking for permanence, but things change all the time. That's the nature of the material world—constant change!

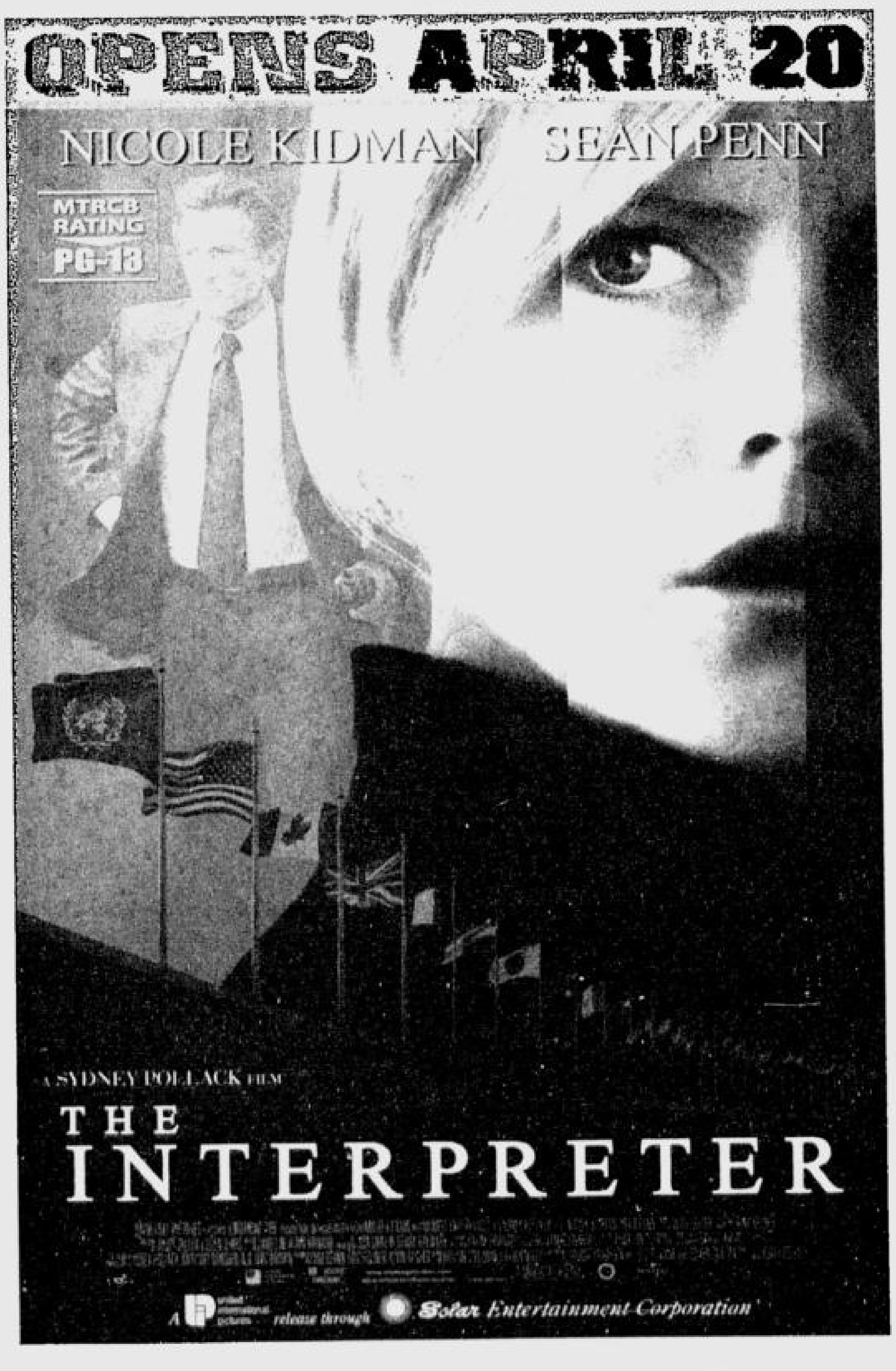


KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
(King Arthur)
ADRIEN BRODY
(King Kong)
WHEN YOU DIE, ALL YOU WANT TO DO IS COME BACK.
THE JACKET
OPENS APRIL 20
A HAUNTING GHOST STORY IN THE TRADITION OF "THE SIXTH SENSE"

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
NOW SHOWING
FEAR COMES FULL CIRCLE
samara ring 2
release through Solar Entertainment Corporation
DREAMWORKS PICTURES
TM & © 2005 DREAMWORKS LLC

2ND WEEK!
BIGGER MORE ABSORBENT
THE SpongeBob SquarePants MOVIE
MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
2-GO
Solar Entertainment Corporation

THE MOST AWAITED SUMMER MOVIE EVENT!!!
Hero Angeles
Sandara Park
Joross Gamboa
Roxanne Guinoo
CAN THIS BE LOVE
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOSE JAVIER REYES, DGPI
BNY Asian Classics
STAR CINEMA ABS-CBN
GRAND OPENING APRIL 27



OPENS APRIL 20
NICOLE KIDMAN SEAN PENN
MTRCB RATING PG-13
A SYDNEY POLLACK FILM
THE INTERPRETER
release through Solar Entertainment Corporation

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Fantasy and adventure enliven new film releases

By Nestor U. Torre

CRITICS and viewers are enthralled by Marc Foster's new film, "Finding Neverland," because it imagines the circumstances and emotions behind J.M. Barrie's creation of his signature tale and lead character, Peter Pan.

Inspired by Barrie's friendship with the Llewelyn Davies family, the film written by David Magee is infused with the same themes that made Barrie's play about Peter Pan so resonant: The wonder of imagination, nostalgia for the innocence of childhood, and the need to believe in something more enchanted than daily life.

Magee adapted his screenplay from another play, Allan Knee's "The Man Who Was Peter Pan," an imaginary series of conversations between Barrie and the Davies boys.

Fresh inspiration

The film begins with the playwright watching his latest work opening to a ho-hum reception from the audience. Bored by the same old themes, he's in serious need of fresh inspiration, and finds it in the boys he befriends and creates fantastic stories for.

He then turns their imaginative games and tales into the play that is "Peter Pan," and achieves his career-defining success.

"Finding Neverland" topbills Johnny Depp as J. M. Barrie, and Kate Winslet and Julie Christie are also in the stellar cast.

CHIKLIS. Portrays The Thing in upcoming "Fantastic Four" movie.

NEESON. Plays a Crusader in Ridley Scott's "Kingdom of Heaven."

Fantasy and the world of the imagination again come to the fore in "Fantastic Four." The action adventure production, based on the popular Marvel Comics superhero characters, has Michael Chiklis playing The Thing.

Football scholarship

Underneath his unsightly exterior, The Thing is Ben Grimm, a man who grew up on the mean streets of New York, but got to college on a football scholarship, and helped his brilliant buddy, Reed, with some far-out experiments. Unfortunately, Reed's first experimental voyage into space went terribly awry, and turned Ben into The Thing—a superhuman, super-strong creature with an orange-colored rocky exterior.

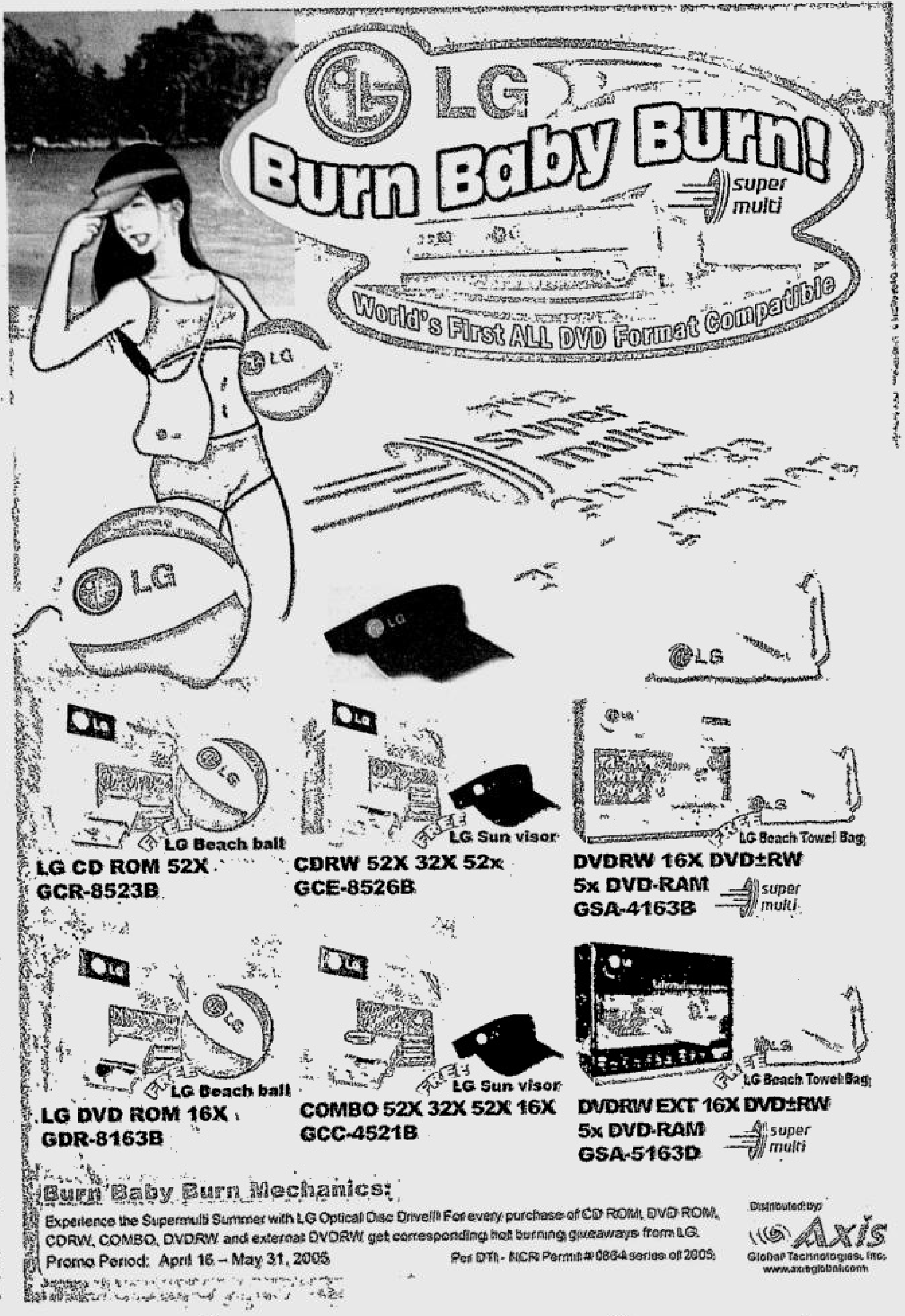
Ben Grimm is the emotional center of the "Fantastic Four" movie. What he's going through speaks thematically to everyone: He experiences a lot of loss, and wants to be himself again.

Well-regarded

Finally, Liam Neeson flies high, imaginatively speaking, as Godfrey of Ibelin, in the new fantasy adventure, "Kingdom of Heaven," directed by the well-regarded Ridley Scott.

Neeson's lead character left France to become a Crusader, and his heroic bravery and

FANTASY/ A3-6



LG
Burn Baby Burn!
super multi
World's First ALL DVD Format Compatible

FREE LG Beach ball
LG CD ROM 52X
GCR-8523B

FREE LG Sun visor
CDRW 52X 32X 52x
GCE-8526B

FREE LG Beach Towel Bag
DVDRW 16X DVD±RW
5x DVD-RAM
GSA-4163B
super multi

FREE LG Beach ball
LG DVD ROM 16X
GDR-8163B

FREE LG Sun visor
COMBO 52X 32X 52X 16X
GCC-4521B

FREE LG Beach Towel Bag
DVDRW EXT 16X DVD±RW
5x DVD-RAM
GSA-5163D
super multi

Burn Baby Burn Mechanics:
Experience the Supermulti Summer with LG Optical Disc Drive!!! For every purchase of CD ROM, DVD ROM, CDRW, COMBO, DVDRW and external DVDRW get corresponding hot burning giveaways from LG.
Promo Period: April 16 – May 31, 2005
Per DTI - NCR Permit #0864 series of 2005

Distributed by:
Axis
Global Technologies, Inc.
www.axisglobal.com

Ja Rule

All Set to Rule

SMART Buddy Brings Ja Rule to Manila!

In the world of hip-hop and R&B, few names have gotten as much attention over the past decade than Ja Rule. Combining a uniquely throaty voice, catchy rhythms, and great collaborations, Ja Rule has ridden the crest that has propelled hip-hop to the top of today's music charts. Filipino hip-hop lovers, brace yourselves. SMART Buddy now brings you the hip-hop concert event of the year as Ja Rule comes to Manila on April 23!

The historic Araneta Coliseum will be the venue for the highly anticipated performance of hitmaker extraordinaire Ja Rule! You can get one free ticket to this once-in-a-lifetime event by purchasing a SMART Buddy phonekit and downloading any ringtone, polytone, MMS image, logo, etc. at any SMART Wireless Center in Metro Manila. Simply text JARULE and send to 209 for more downloads on this musical giant. Who knows, you might be sitting in "The Big Dome" for Ja Rule's big April 23 concert!

Known worldwide as the backbone of the Murder Inc. music label, Ja Rule skyrocketed to fame for his solo work, as well as his duets with musical superstars like Christina Milian, Ashanti, and the one and only Jennifer Lopez. "I'm Real" with J-Lo and "Always on Time" with Ashanti exposed Ja Rule as an artist whose raps and rhymes could blend perfectly well with more pop-flavored tunes. Other hits like "Between Me and U", "Clap Back", "Livin' It Up", and "Holla Holla" only served to cement his status as a legitimate hip-hop force.

Only SMART Buddy brings the hottest world-class hip-hop acts to the varied Filipino musical landscape. Ja Rule's concert will also feature local sensations Seven Shots and Sun Valley Crew, so you can bet the show will be off the hook! Text JARULE and send to 209 to start downloading all the Ja Rule content you can handle, or better yet, buy a SMART Buddy phonekit and download to your heart's delight to watch Ja Rule live. Don't miss this chance to see R&B royalty in action!

SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid

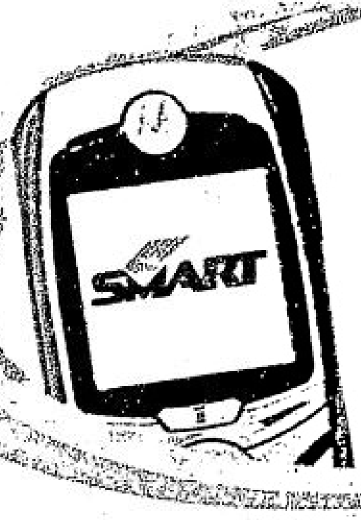
Dream mo bang yumaman?
Pagkakataon m

SMART
Buddy
Pre-Paid

Milyon-milyong pera

Send D

Ang daling man



SMART LOAD
Ten (10) daily winners
of ₱1,000 SMART Load.

S
C
Tw
P2
in
Lo
ch

You can earn one (1) raffle entry for every ₱15 do
Earn additional entries for raffle entry updates that come with Choose Your Dream's f

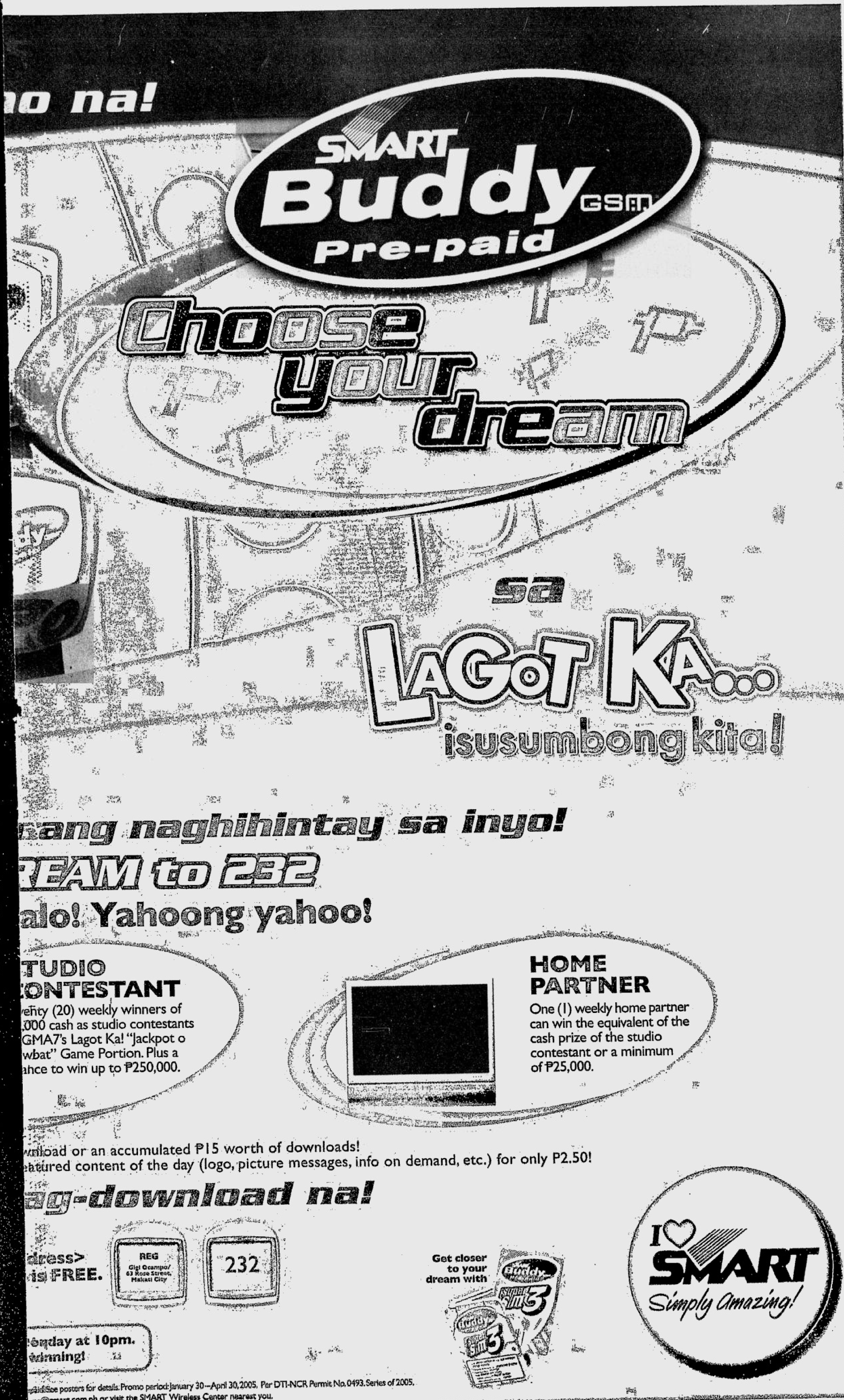
Kaya sali na, m

To join, text REG <name/a
and send to 232. Registration

GMA
NETWORK

Watch Lagot Ka...Isusumbong Kita! on GMA 7 every
Keep downloading to increase your chances of

SMART's Choose Your Dream is open to all SMART GSM subscribers: SMART Buddy, SMART Gold, SMART Infinity, SMART Kid, Talk 'N Text, Addict Mobile and Addict Mobile
For more details, please call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111 or *888 (₱1.00/message sent in excess of the free text allocation). Email us at cu



o na!

SMART
Buddy GSM
Pre-paid

Choose your dream

sa

LaGoT Ka...
isusumbong kita!

nang naghihintay sa inyo!

REAM to 232

alo! Yahoong yahoo!

**TUDIO
ONTESTANT**

enty (20) weekly winners of
,000 cash as studio contestants
GMA7's Lagot Ka! "Jackpot o
wbat" Game Portion. Plus a
ahce to win up to ₱250,000.

**HOME
PARTNER**

One (1) weekly home partner
can win the equivalent of the
cash prize of the studio
contestant or a minimum
of ₱25,000.

wnload or an accumulated ₱15 worth of downloads!
eatured content of the day (logo, picture messages, info on demand, etc.) for only P2.50!

ag-download na!

dress>
is FREE.

REG
Gigi Ocampo/
63 Rose Street,
Makati City

232

eqday at 10pm.
winning!

Get closer
to your
dream with

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!

aid. See posters for details. Promo period: January 30—April 30, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0493. Series of 2005.
re@smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

WILSON. Was only 14 when she played Peron's mistress in "Evita."

25 YEARS IN THE THEATER

Demystifying Monique Wilson

By Rito P. Asilo

SIXTEEN years ago, two pretty, teenage stage actresses, Lea Salonga and Monique Wilson, caught the country's imagination when local broadsheets announced that the fresh-faced girls were flying to London to play the tragic heroine, Kim, in Cameron Mackintosh's "Miss Saigon" at the West End. Monique and Lea have since carved their respective niches in the world of performing arts.

Long before she conquered the West End, however, Monique was already a stage "veteran" who had appeared in more than 50 productions for Repertory Philippines, where she'd been acting since age nine. (In fact, she was only 14 when she played the role of Juan Peron's mistress—played by Andrea Corr in the film version—in "Evita"!)

She may have dabbled in recording and the movies—and won acting awards along the way, including an Urian best supporting actress plum for her brilliant against-type portrayal of an abused, plain housewife in Chito Rono's "Laro sa Baga"—but the theater is really where her heart is.

Thus, the New Voice Company was born, and so followed successful local stagings of "Cabaret," "The Vagina Monologues," "Angels in America," "Rent," "Falsettos,"—etc.!

Trivia

Here's a bit of trivia: Monique was supposed to appear in another West End musical, Kander and Ebb's "Flora, The Red Menace," after "Saigon," but Monique's artistic choices have always been unpredictable. —Which only adds to her mystique as a person and performer.

I am marking my 10th year in the theater this year, but Monqs—as Rossana Abueva (NVC's executive producer) and I fondly call her—is commemorating her 25th year in the industry this month—quite a feat for someone who has yet to turn 35 on May 4!

But, there's more to Monique's mystique and classy persona than meet the eye. We thought we'd share with you some anecdotes to "demystify" her to people who are intrigued by her:

I was nursing a bad cold when I flew to England a couple of years ago on a scholarship to take an acting course at London's Actors Centre. Unfortunately, the chilly November weather made the condition worse, and I was wheezing noisily in the wee hours of the morning, and was concerned that my coughing would wake the neighbors. Suddenly, Monique was inside my room—with a nebulizer in hand!

Awareness

Another time, Monique, Rossana and I were working at the NVC office at 2 a.m. to wrap up unfinished business for a VDay show, an annual benefit performance of "The Vagina Monologues" to raise funds and awareness for abused women and children, the following day. Then, we heard a loud banging at the gate. Outside, a gaunt, asthmatic woman was gasping for breath, and desperately seeking attention from neighbors, who chose to ignore the commotion.

We rushed the woman to Makati Med, the nearest hospital near the NVC office. The sick lady looked like she was about to expire on the back seat of my car, while Monique was quietly cradling her in her arms. We waited for the woman's condition to stabilize before we headed home.

I also find it inspiring to be around someone who doesn't thrive on rumor and gossip, and doesn't lash back—even against people she's at odds with.

Artistic choices

These, among other things, have endeared Monique to me. We occasionally disagree about artistic choices, but they're mostly inconsequential snags that are common among artists who are passionate about their art.

I have never been the star-struck type, but I recall with great amusement that, when I was new at NVC, I would always forget my lyrics every time I sang a duet with Monique. Well, these days, I don't forget my lyrics anymore. But, I am still in constant awe of the woman who has helped fuel my love for the theater.

On April 30, Saturday, let's join one of Philippine Theater's brightest stars as she celebrates a milestone, with a special theatrical concert, "Monique Wilson: 25 Years in the Theater," 9 p.m. at the Music Museum. Call 896-5497.

Happy Anniversary, Monqs!

Fantasy . . .

From page A3-3

integrity have earned him a place close to King Baldwin.

As the film's story unfolds, Godfrey has returned to France to find his son, whom he's never met, to ask him to go with him to Jerusalem. His son, Balian (Orlando Bloom), initially resists Godfrey, but circumstances leave him no alternative but to join his father.

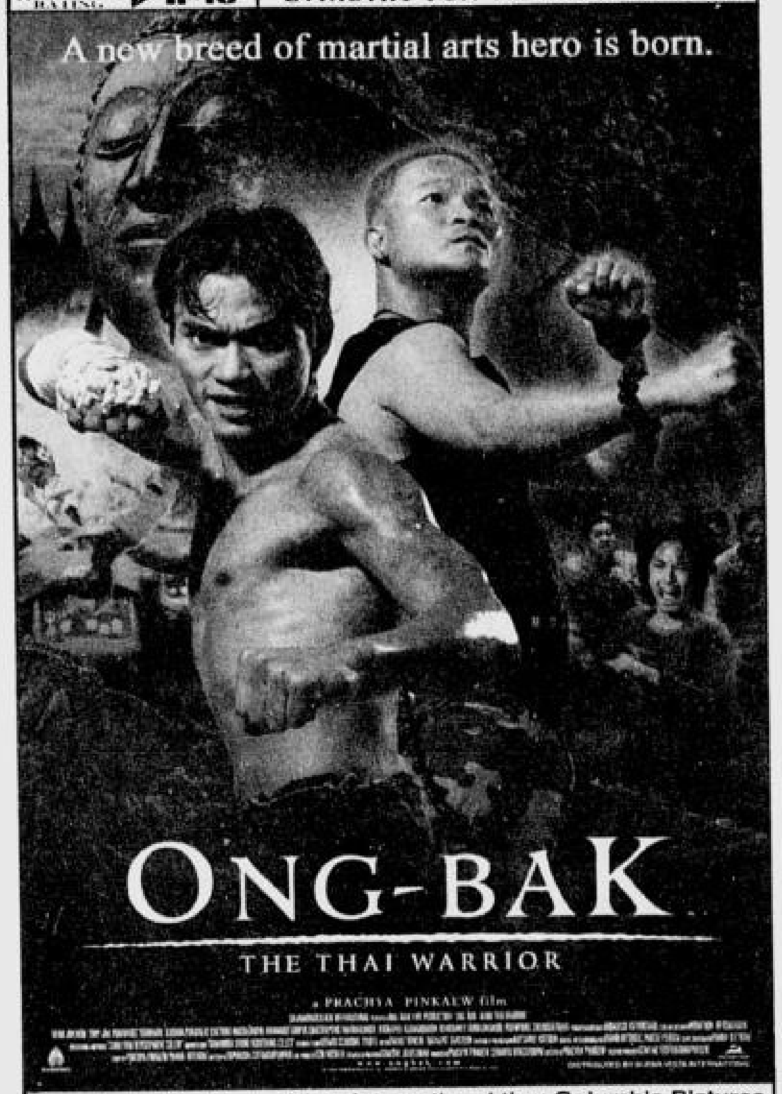
Journey

He goes on a journey of spiritual, personal and political growth and discovery, trying to understand what life is all about, and seeking forgiveness and understanding.

For his part, Godfrey finds redemption when he meets and reconciles with his son. He rediscovers love within himself, and sees how his heritage can be passed down to Balian for the future of his people.

Thus, despite his being mortally injured in battle, he still finds the strength to knight his son, passing on to him his mission of keeping the peace in the Holy Land.

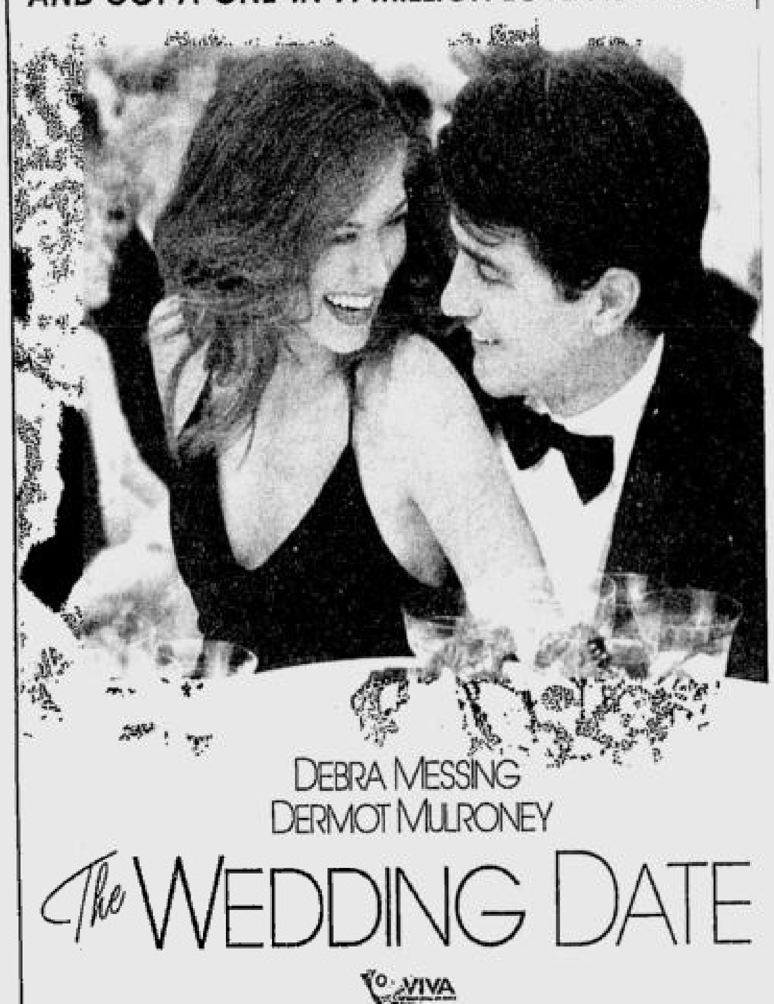
ULTIMATE MARTIAL ARTS ACTION
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

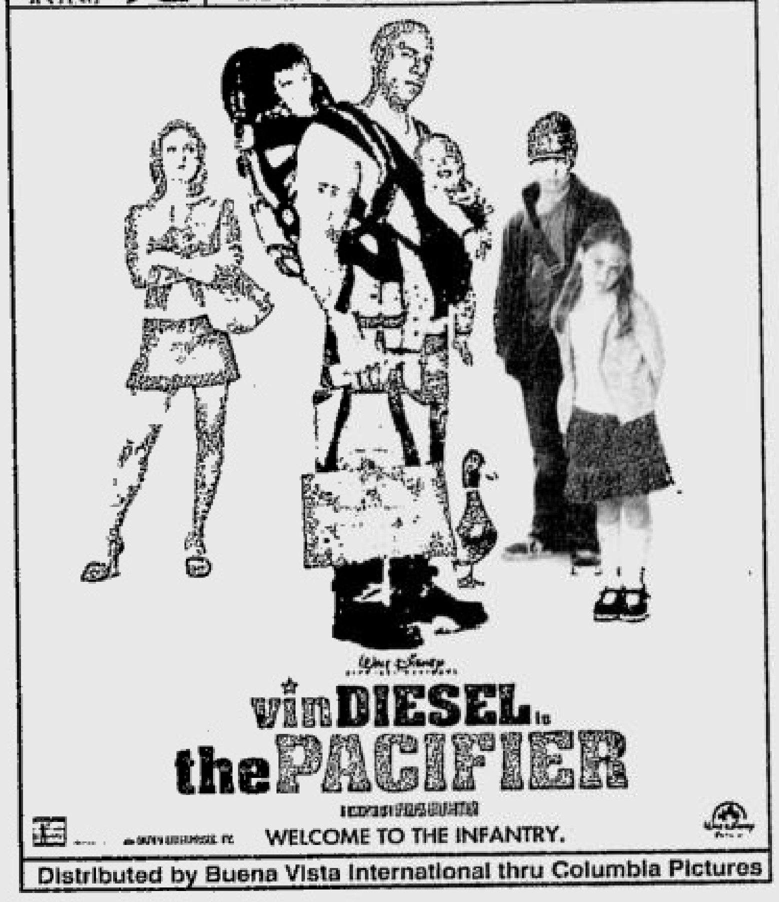
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

SHE PAID HIM $6,000 TO BE HER DATE
AND GOT A-ONE-IN-A-MILLION LOVE AS BONUS.



NOW SHOWING

THIRD WEEK
MTRCB RATING ▶ G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP | OPENS APRIL 20

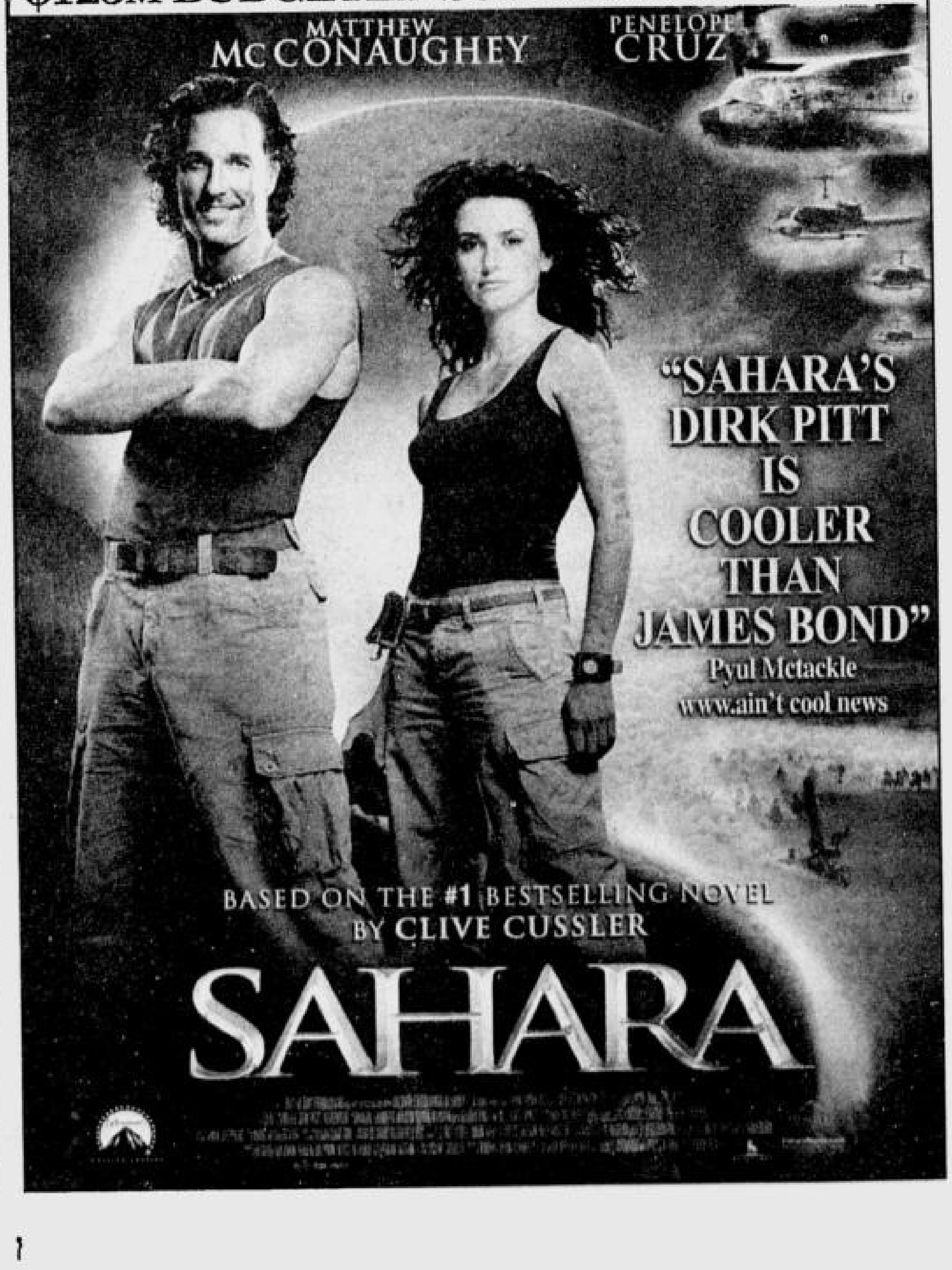
A SPECTACULAR GIANT EPIC
NON-STOP ACTION, STUNNING VISUAL EFFECTS
AND A CAST OF THOUSANDS.

THE QUEST FOR THE *RING* CONTINUES...
The Nordic legend that inspired J.R.R. TOLKIEN to write
THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY

KRISTANNA LØKEN
(STAR OF TERMINATOR 3)
RING
OF THE
NIBELUNGS

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA
THE FIRST BIG SUMMER MOVIE OF 2005
$125M BUDGETED SUPER PRODUCTION


MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY
PENELOPE CRUZ
"SAHARA'S DIRK PITT IS COOLER THAN JAMES BOND"
Pyul Mctackle
www.ain't cool news
BASED ON THE #1 BESTSELLING NOVEL BY CLIVE CUSSLER
SAHARA

Vanessa Williams makes up for lost time

By Noelani Torre

VANESSA Williams has come a long way from the controversial happenings of 1983. In case you've forgotten, she was the Miss America who got un-crowned because of the appearance of certain provocative pictures in a man's magazine. Not what we'd call a good career move, but Ms Williams proved herself to be more than just a sordid trivia item by successfully launching herself as a singer only a few years later.

To date, she has sold more than four million albums, reaped a couple of Grammy nominations, and appeared in various films, plays, and television shows. Despite all the musical hits she's scored in the past 15 or so years, however, we have to admit that we know her mostly as the singer of that "Pocahontas" song, "Colors of the Wind."

All-around performer

Williams is more than just a singer, though. She's an all-around performer—she sings, she dances, she acts, and the fact that she's just plain gorgeous is icing on the cake.

You may remember her for the dance-musical "Dance With Me," where she co-starred with Chayanne, and for the Schwarzenegger action thriller, "Eraser."

She has also appeared on stage, most notably in "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and Sondheim and Lapine's "Into the Woods" (where she earned a Tony Award nomination for Best Actress in a Musical).

Since the release of her Greatest Hits collection back in 1998 and a rather unsuccessful album a year before that, Williams has been rather quiet, musically speaking. Well, after more than five years with no new releases, she made a comeback with a holiday album "Silver and Gold" last year, and now she's come up with "Everlasting Love" (Lava/Warner), a compilation of covers of '70s love songs.

Classics

The 12-track disc features such well-known classics as Burt Bacharach's "One Less Bell to Answer," Jerry Fuller's "Show and Tell," Stevie Wonder's "Send One Your Love," the Isley Brothers' "Harvest for the World," and "Never Can Say Goodbye."

"Some are personal favorites of mine," Williams shares, "and others were suggested by the record company. I had my list of songs that were from my record collection. I even went home on a Sunday afternoon and set up my turntable and made my little mix tape like I used to do when I was in the 7th and 8th grades."

This latest CD fits in very well with the rest of her material. Smooth, slick, and generally ear-pleasing, "Everlasting Love" is filled with sophisticated mixes and the polished flourishes of the London Session Orchestra.

Collection

Though this is her album, the star in this collection is not Williams but the music itself. Her voice is pretty, but it's not powerful enough to make her "own" the material, resulting in a rather bland performance. The songs themselves are good, however, and they've been reinterpreted in a way that makes them appear new.

All in all, the album makes for almost an hour's worth of agreeable listening. There aren't any outstanding moments, to be sure, but everything's as pleasant as can be. This is perfect music for winding down after work, but don't listen to it during your lunch break, if you don't want to end up snoozing at your desk!

WILLIAMS. Her new album includes songs that are her personal favorites.

Carole Lombard's stylish, comic charm

By Behn Cervantes

IN 1978, I discovered moviehouses in Paris that specialized in vintage films. It was a wonderful opportunity to see films I had only read and heard about from cineastes. While touring the City of Lights on foot, I came across a moviehouse that showed "To Be or Not To Be," starring Jack Benny and Carole Lombard.

I know of Benny because of his television persona in the '50s and '60s. It is said that Ernst Lubitsch's dark comedy about a Jewish theater group that challenges the occupying Nazis was "his finest hour on the big screen." Benny credits his sterling performance to his great chemistry with the spunky Ms Lombard.

Screwball

She was the great love of Clark Gable. She was Hollywood's top comedy actress of the '30s, who epitomized the screwball and saucy blonde. She died in a plane crash at the height of her career while on a War Bond tour during World War II, and her death left Gable desolate.

Thereafter, she became an icon. Critics said that Lombard "set a standard rarely matched by subsequent screen actresses." I was familiar with attractive comediennes like Celeste Holm and Rosalind Russell, who shone in hits like "My Girl Friday" and "Auntie Mame."

I saw an Irene Dunne comedy, and understood why she was admired both as a dramatic actress and as a comedienne. During the late '30s, she was the top pick for screwball comedies because of her delightful blend of beauty and feisty kookiness.

Russell and Dunne were experts at rapid-fire delivery of witty lines. Katherine Hepburn demonstrated the same ability in comedies like "The Philadelphia Story" and "Woman of the Year."

I still didn't have a clear picture of Lombard's sophistication, charm and talent, because the only movie I remember seeing her in as a kid was "My Man Godfrey," with William Powell. I found Powell so old-looking that I didn't appreciate the film, despite Lombard's Oscar-nominated turn.

At the time, my idea of comedy was the slapstick style of Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.

Flawless

I was in high school when I learned to appreciate stylish comedy, because I had become enamored with Kay Kendall, the British import with flawless timing. In "Les Girls," and "Genevieve," she charmed audiences. The delightful redhead was referred to then as the new Lombard.

Marilyn Monroe, the foremost blonde of the '50s, confused matters for me. She acted in fine comedies, but in those flicks, she was pitted against "clumsy lovers" like Tommy Nooman ("Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"), Tom Ewell ("Seven-Year Itch") and Don Murray ("Bus Stop").

Even Laurence Olivier in "The Prince and The Showgirl" became clumsy when he squared off against Monroe's oozing sex appeal. And Lauren Bacall was completely upstaged by Monroe's "Who, me, sexy?" appeal in "How to Marry a Millionaire."

LOMBARD. Clark Gable's great love.

They are coming to invade your home city!
Pinoy Pop Superstar
Grand Finalists' Nationwide Tour
Meet, greet, and vote for your favorite Pinoy Pop Superstar finalists when they tour the country before their Grand Showdown on May.
April 16, 6pm SM Iloilo
April 23, 6pm SM Cebu
April 28, 6pm SM North Edsa
Brenan
Charmaine
Kristel
MC
Jonalyn
Michael
Saturdays, at 5:30pm
Who is the one Pinoy singing sensation that will outshine them all?
GMA

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BITONG. Loves the chemistry between actor and audience.

Ana Bitong is passionate about theater

By Edmund L. Sicam

SEASONED stage actress Ana Bitong finds doing comedies a little scary. "It's hard to make Pinoys laugh," says the actress. "Unlike other comedians who can get a laugh with a simple gesture, I have to work hard at it. The technique involved is so different from doing, say, 'Medea.' That's why I find it so challenging."

Ana plays a secretary who has an affair with a congressman in the Repertory Philippines production of Ray Cooney's award-winning comedy, "Whose Wife Is It Anyway," at Rep's Globe Theater at Onstage, Greenbelt in Makati.

The two are about to spend the night together in a hotel when they discover a dead body in their suite! The congressman tries to get out of this mess by concocting one lie after another, and gets into even more trouble.

Ana feels that the local audience is hard to please. "We're basically funny, we tell jokes a lot, so people don't get carried away, unlike in other countries, when they watch a comedy. Pinoys can also be lazy about reacting."

Although there's a lot of visual humor in "Whose Wife...," Ana says much of the humor comes with the lines, so the actors have to deliver their dialogue well. When a laugh line falls flat, she says she doesn't blame the audience for being dense, but herself for not doing a good job. "Sometimes, it's just as simple as taking a deep breath or pausing a little bit."

Fashion shows

Ana fell in love with theater when she was only nine years old. Initially, it was because she was exposed to the fashion shows mounted by her mom, Wanda Louwallien. She enjoyed it when Wanda injected a little drama in her shows and for a while, Ana wanted to take up modeling, too.

However, when she watched a Broadway show, "Merlin," she was impressed at how the production combined songs, dance and magic. She was amazed at what they were able to accomplish onstage. She was hooked on theater from that point.

At 20, Ana had already done some 50 plays for Rep, and she decided to take a postgraduate course in Classical Theater at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. "It was one of the best years of my life," gushes Ana. "I developed my confidence, and learned to be less emotional in interpreting a role."

Perfect world

Ana looks at theater as a place where she can escape reality and enter a perfect world, where you know how things are going to end and you can be another person. She loves the chemistry that exists between the actor and the audience.

She's not keen about doing movies. She remembers acting in a "*pito-pito*" production which she didn't enjoy doing.

In contrast, she had a good time doing movies for director Joey Reyes, a close friend. She wouldn't mind working for Joey again, but she still prefers the stage. "There's something about how organized theater is that I like. There's a certain integrity in theater people," she observes.

Businessman

Ana is married to a businessman, who's very supportive of her career. "He's a passionate person, so he understands my love for theater. He doesn't look at my acting as less important than his job."

With what her husband earns, she could very well quit acting and be a fulltime housewife. "But, I'd go nuts if I did that. —And my husband knows that. He wouldn't want me to stop. He says, when I stay home too long, I get antsy!"

Everyone's invited!

Anlene
Love your Bones

SM City Fairview Main Building Activity Area
April 16, 2005 Saturday

Programme (1:30 & 6pm)
Hosted by
Mickey Ferriols
Aerobics session conducted by
Regine Tolentino
• Fun games • Raffle
• Lecture on bone health & Osteoporosis

(From 10am onwards)
• FREE Anlene sampling • FREE Bone Scanning
• FREE Consultations • FREE Reflexology
• Exhibit on bone health & Osteoporosis

SM City Fairview
THE MEDICAL CITY
Patient on Center Stage, Service of Greater Worth
Anlene
The Bone Expert

Constant change

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WHERE can we find rest and refuge? We would like to share with you valuable insights from Jagad Guru Siddhaswarupananda on the subject of finding shelter in this ever-changing world.

Change concerns all of us. We are weary of the changes that confront us on a daily basis. And we constantly seek security in our earthly existence.

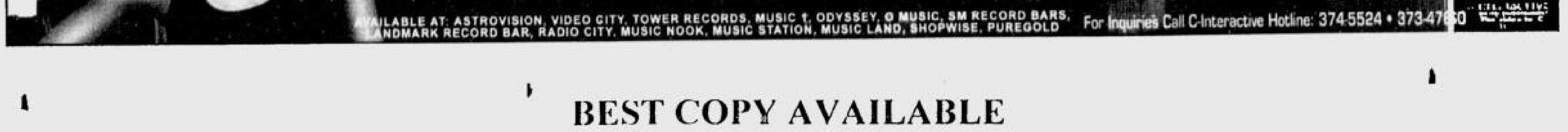
Jagad Guru explains: "Reality is made up of two different natures: One is impermanent and the other, permanent. That which is impermanent is always subject to change, and is not a secure platform where you can find rest. You cannot find peace because it constantly changes. Then, you are tossed around again, and your sense of security is shaken.

Low tide

"Lord Jesus Christ said, 'Don't build your house on the seashore at low tide, because it is going to change.' You want a place to settle in, a place to take shelter. That's what home is for. It's a place where you can settle in despite constant changes—from the pouring rains, strong winds, harsh sun and scorching heat. This is the reason why people would rather own a house than rent one. If you rent the house, the landlord can kick you out.

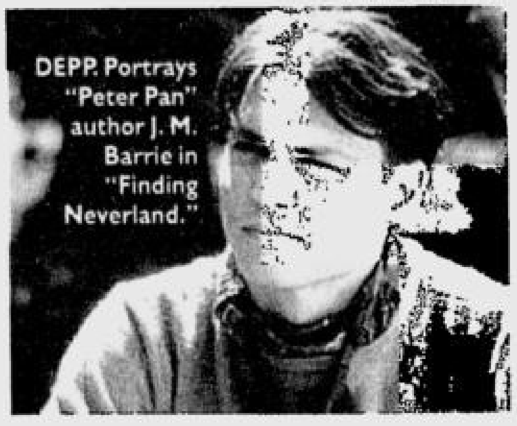
"Each of us is an eternal spirit soul. We are eternal, but we seek temporary things. We build our house on the seashore at low tide, but when high tide eventually comes

CONSTANT/ A3-2



UNIVERSAL
honey
Her dreams. Her terms.
JESSICA ALBA MEKHI PHIFER 'LIL' ROMEO
Now Available on Original Video!
AVAILABLE AT: ASTROVISION, VIDEO CITY, TOWER RECORDS, MUSIC 1, ODYSSEY, O MUSIC, SM RECORD BARS, LANDMARK RECORD BAR, RADIO CITY, MUSIC NOOK, MUSIC STATION, MUSIC LAND, SHOPWISE, PUREGOLD
For Inquiries Call C-Interactive Hotline: 374-5524 • 373-47

SATURDAY *Special*



DEPP. Portrays "Peter Pan" author J. M. Barrie in "Finding Neverland."

NOW SHOWING

Depp and Messing in charming, moving starrers

By Rito P. Asilo

"Finding Neverland"

D: Marc Forster
S: Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet

THIS week's must-see movie, Johnny Depp's latest big-screen coup, demonstrates that, indeed, there's a thin line that separates fact from fiction, and that the heightened realities presented in works of fiction and children's tales are mere representations of rich, colorful human experiences.

Marc Forster's bittersweet opus details how "Peter Pan" author, Scottish playwright J.M. Barrie (Johnny Depp), finds his literary inspiration for his timeless children's classic—about growing up and growing wise— when he strikes up an unlikely friendship with four young boys and their widowed mother, Sylvia (Kate Winslet). But, his unconventional closeness to them soon turns into an object of gossip and speculation, and further threatens an already rocky marriage.

Forster's extraordinarily touching film doesn't have actors huffing and puffing as they agonize over their sad, unfortunate lives. But the movie features deeply moving performances from Depp, Winslet and the rest of the brilliant cast. Its thoughtful tone will linger in your mind long after the film credits end.

It's a bittersweet reminder that sometimes, it's up to us to find our respective "Neverlands" to turn loneliness and despair into hope, acceptance and forgiveness.

"The Wedding Date"

D: Clare Kilner
S: Debra Messing, Dermot Mulroney

A shocked Kat Ellis (Debra Messing) is dumped by fiance Jeffrey (Jeremy Sheffield) before they can take the marital plunge. Two years later, Kat once again faces a dilemma when she hears that her younger half-sister, Amy, is about to get married—and her ex is the groom's best man!

To prove to family, friends and to Jeff that she's moved on, she "hires" the perfect date in the person of professional escort, Nick Mercer (Dermot Mulroney), who pretends to be her dashing new boyfriend.

Suddenly everyone's green with envy—even Jeffrey. But, what she doesn't count on is falling in love with the dreamy escort—but, is he worth risking heartbreak for again?

Clare Kilner's film is simplistic, predictable romantic-fantasy schlock—"Pretty Woman" in reverse. But, it is buoyed up by the charming performances turned in by Messing and Mulroney.

If you are not repulsed by the film's preposterous premise, you'll find the movie's feel-good tone eerily appealing. It likewise boasts of beautifully photographed scenes that magically capture London's urban grandeur and Oxford's suburban idyll.

"The Wedding Date" may be light as a feather, but if you're not out to nitpick, get ready to be swept off your feet by the film's unpretentious charm and aw-shucks, sugarcoated romantic lines, like "I'd rather fight with you than make love to anybody else," or "The hardest part of love isn't loving someone, but having the courage to let them love you back." Okay, hand us the hanky . . . quick!

MESSING AND MULRONEY. Sunshiny smile and dapper good looks.

SM
CINEMA
Hi-tech sound.
Cool! Carpet!
How comfy the seats!
No hassle seating.
Wow! It looks so real!

We invite you to SM Premiere Cinemas.

Guaranteed seating. Bright new screens.
Digital acoustic sounds, designer upholstered seats,
and soft carpeted flooring.

Now open!
SM Sta. Mesa - Cinemas 1, 2 & 3
SM South Mall - Cinemas 3 & 4
SM Cebu - Cinemas 3 & 4

Opening on April 20
SM Megamall - Cinemas 10, 11 & 12

And coming soon on April 30
SM North EDSA - Cinemas 1 & 2

OPTRA
I am
CHEVROLET

The Optra 1.6 L.
Startlingly within your means.
Class and style at just P599,000.

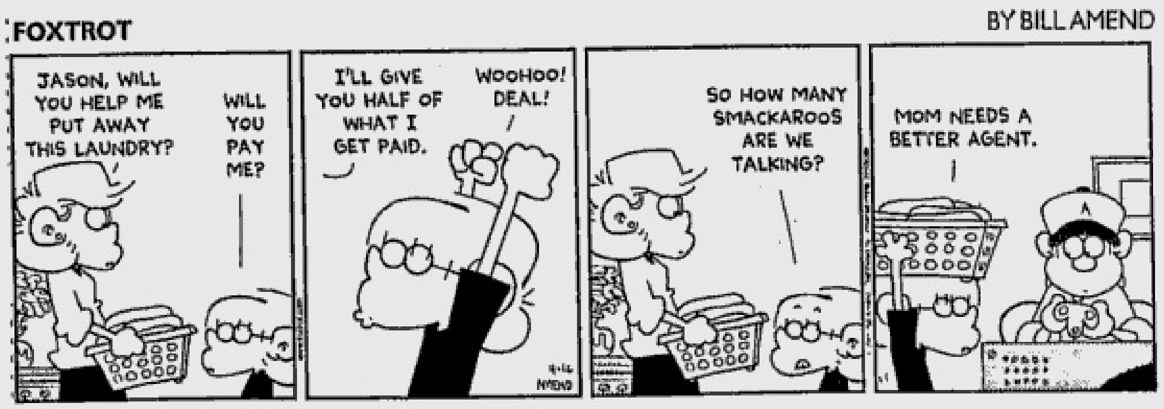
With several financing schemes that suit you.

Free periodic maintenance for 2 years or 30,000 km with parts and labor. Free 24/7 roadside assistance (includes towing, lost key and flat tire change). Plus a 3-year or 100,000 km warranty. With standard offers this good, expect the Chevrolet Optra to go very, very fast. Hurry, contact Chevrolet or GM Autoworld now at 1.800.1888.4646.

GM Autoworld MAKATI 867.8183 to 87 / 894.1976 • GM Autoworld QUEZON AVE. 374.1250 to 59 • GM Autoworld SHAW 535 4944 / 533 8375 / 533.1263 / 533 6349 • Chevrolet PASIG 672.1612 to 14 / 672.1486 • Chevrolet ALABANG 771.1206 to 09
Chevrolet NORTH EDSA 374 9992 to 97 / 374 9963 • Chevrolet PAMPANGA (045) 963.3333 / (045) 860.2000 • GM Autoworld CEBU (032) 234.0426 to 29 • Chevrolet DAVAO (082) 300.7777 / (082) 235.3811 • Chevrolet CAGAYAN DE ORO (08822) 722.999 / (088) 857.9999

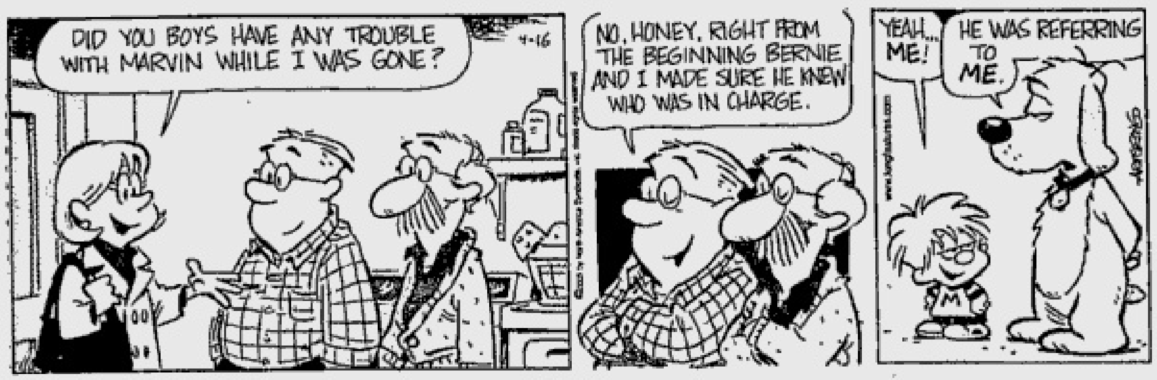
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON, WILL YOU HELP ME PUT AWAY THIS LAUNDRY?
WILL YOU PAY ME?
I'LL GIVE YOU HALF OF WHAT I GET PAID.
WOOHOO! DEAL!
SO HOW MANY SMACKAROOS ARE WE TALKING?
MOM NEEDS A BETTER AGENT.

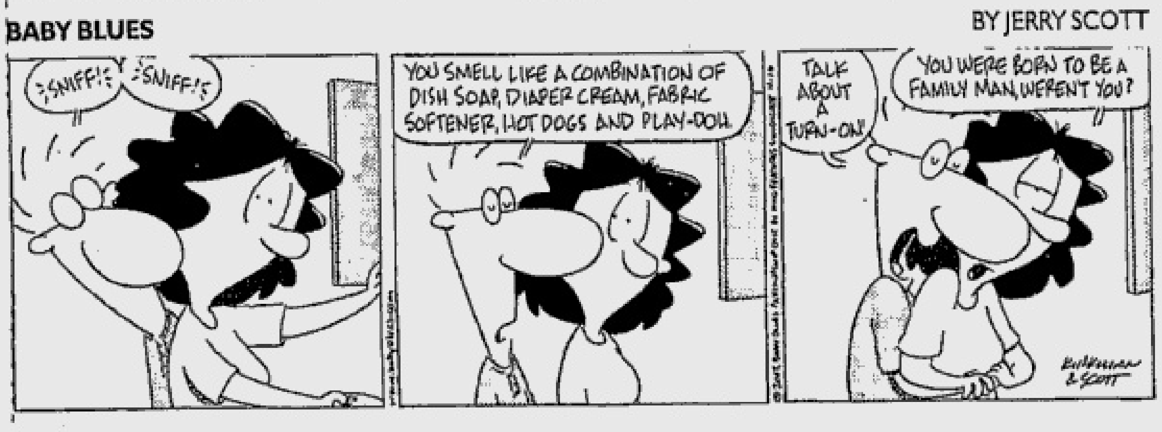
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


DID YOU BOYS HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITH MARVIN WHILE I WAS GONE?
NO, HONEY. RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING BERNIE AND I MADE SURE HE KNEW WHO WAS IN CHARGE.
YEAH... ME!
HE WAS REFERRING TO ME.

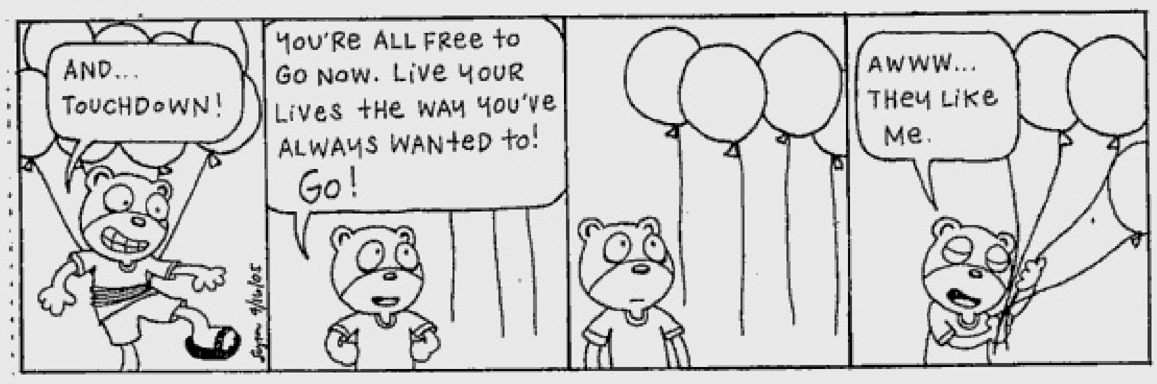
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SNIFF!
SNIFF!
YOU SMELL LIKE A COMBINATION OF DISH SOAP, DIAPER CREAM, FABRIC SOFTENER, HOT DOGS AND PLAY-DOH.
TALK ABOUT A TURN-ON!
YOU WERE BORN TO BE A FAMILY MAN, WEREN'T YOU?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AND... TOUCHDOWN!
You're ALL Free to Go Now. Live your Lives the WAY you've ALWAYS WANted to! Go!
AWWW... They Like Me.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a wonderful sense of humor. You are generous, giving and at the same time, you're also accepting. Others know they can count on your kindness. You're extremely loyal to family. You know how to translate visions and ideas into a concrete reality. Certain phases of your life will wrap up this year in order to create room for new ones.

Birthdate of: Charlie Chaplin, actor/director; Selena Quintanilla-Perez, singer; Peter Ustinov, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're very strong and enthusiastic today. You have a strong desire to communicate with others—so talk!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It's important to recognize your need for more solitude now. Take some time to be alone. You need this luxury. You need to pamper your inner soul.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Friends are extremely important to you now. Try to make extra time for them. You might also need to focus on your membership in a club or an organization at this time.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Important planets are at the top of your chart. This causes other people to notice you more than usual. In particular, bosses and VIPs are aware of you. Make the most of this!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You have a strong hit of wanderlust now. Try to do something to expand your world. If you can't travel today, then visit bookshops, galleries and museums.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your sex drive is stimulated right now. Along with this, your interest in financial matters and shared property is also very strong.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): With the Sun and Mercury opposite your sign now, there's no question that your biggest focus is on partnerships and close friendships. Learn what you can from these exchanges.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): When you want to do something, you do it! That's because you have an intense, powerful energy. Today is a good day to get better organized. Roll up your sleeves and get busy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a wonderful time for a vacation for your sign. If you can go on a vacation now, do something that is fun. Catch a movie; see some sports events; play!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): With such a strong focus on home and family now, important discussions with relatives will be significant. You might want to talk to a parent today or someone important in your life.

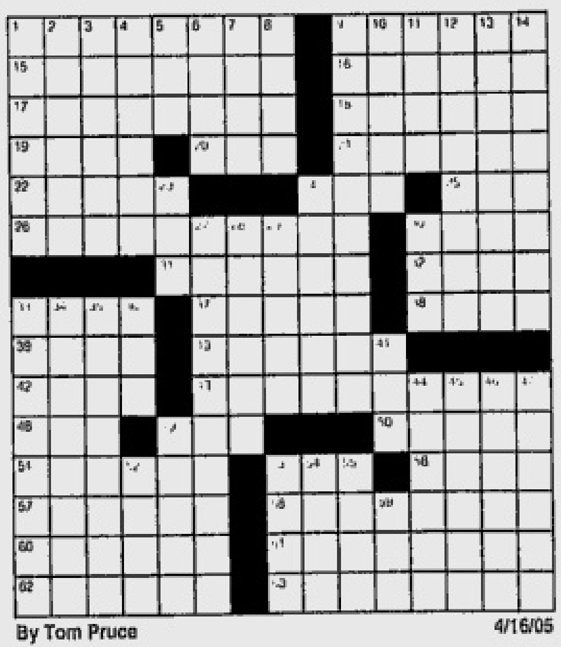
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have a strong desire to communicate with others right now. There's something you want to say. Don't hold back—come clean.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Keep on top of your money scene right now. You have good moneymaking ideas, but you're spending a lot as well. Keep track of these things!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Fire starter
9 Break loose from confinement
15 Not intolerable
16 Lure with false promises
17 Activating switch
18 Greatest degree
19 See regularly
20 Some along the Somme
21 Penny material
22 Large African antelope
24 Corrosion-resistant metal
25 Equal score
26 Put back in position
30 Verdi heroine
31 Verdigris
32 Joe Orton play
33 Beer ingredient
37 Diamond measure
38 Lodges
39 Farmland measure
40 Sandra Bullock film
42 Mishmash dish
43 Dinner for thirteen
48 Totality
49 Guys
50 Gander's partner
51 Voices one's thoughts
53 Period of history
56 __ out (withdraws)
57 Traction providers
58 Abuse
60 Nut
61 Rude
62 Continuous
63 Designed once again

DOWN
1 Tolerator
2 Entertain lavishly
3 Christmas employees
4 Set in proper position
5 Turner or Hentoff
6 Ditto in a footnote
7 Gin flavoring
8 Sawbucks
9 Clarifies
10 Sisters of Charity founder
11 Pitch a tent
12 Ratification
13 Greek god of the sea
14 Beseeches
23 Chip scoopful
24 Lodger
27 Without discretion
28 Salt Lake City resident
29 Becomes fatigued
30 Legendary boxer
33 Footstools
34 One of eight
35 Film opening
36 Stitch up
41 Drag along
44 In an inferior way
45 Ron of gadgets
46 Contents of a will
47 Took it easy
49 Given out in portions
52 Anna Sten title role
53 Kuwaiti leader
54 Frost coating
55 Venomous little snakes
59 Small child



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

4/16/05

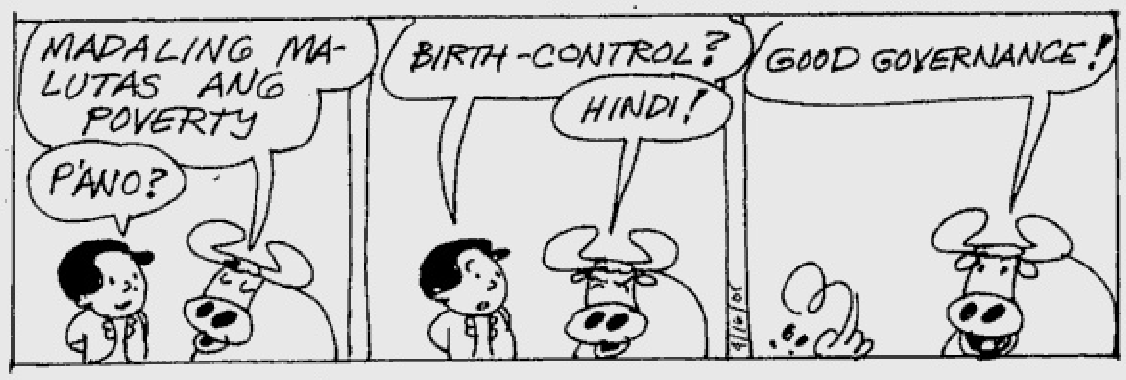
Friday's Puzzle Solved

H	A	R	S	H	■	P	O	P	■	C	H	A	R	D
A	D	E	L	E	■	R	U	E	■	D	E	L	H	I
N	A	V	Y	C	R	O	S	S	■	S	A	L	O	N
■	■	■	■	K	O	W	T	O	W	■	L	A	N	E
H	O	O	P	L	A	■	■	■	E	I	T	H	E	R
B	U	T	T	E	R	S	C	O	T	C	H	■	■	■
E	T	T	A	S	■	T	A	L	L	Y	■	G	A	S
A	R	E	S	■	L	E	R	O	Y	■	H	O	S	E
M	E	P	■	G	O	I	N	G	■	C	E	A	S	E
■	■	■	K	I	D	N	E	Y	S	H	A	P	E	D
D	I	V	I	N	E	■	■	■	H	E	R	E	S	Y
E	M	I	T	■	S	A	V	O	I	R	■	■	■	■
M	A	L	T	A	■	W	A	X	M	U	S	E	U	M
O	G	L	E	D	■	A	L	E	■	B	A	L	S	A
B	E	A	N	S	■	Y	E	N	■	S	O	F	A	R

(C)2005 Tribune Media Services Inc. All rights reserved
4/16/05

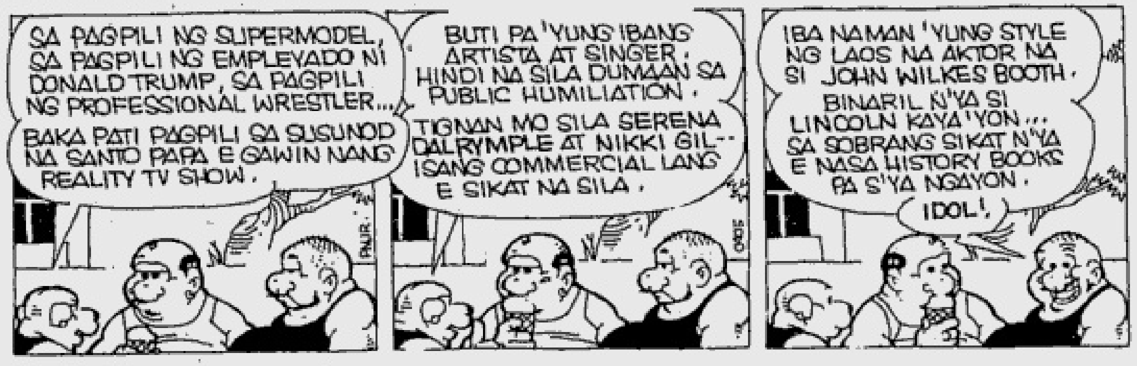
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MADALING MALUTAS ANG POVERTY
P'ANO?
BIRTH-CONTROL?
HINDI!
GOOD GOVERNANCE!

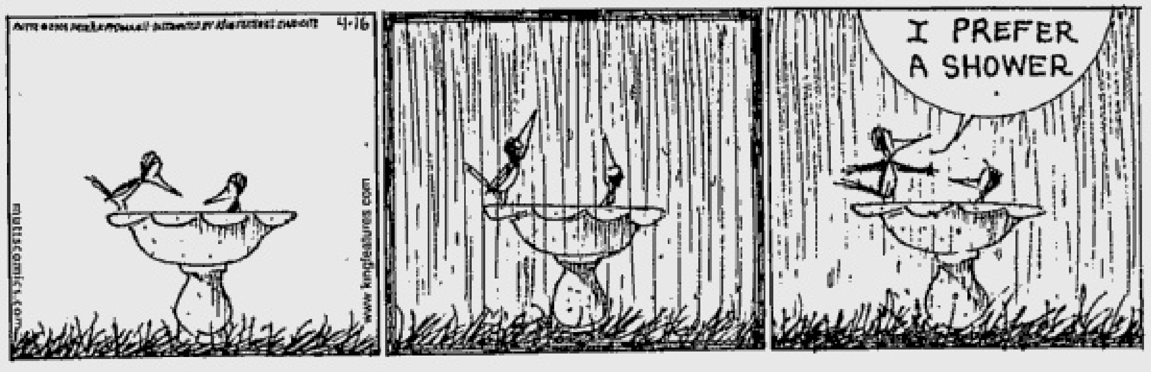
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SA PAGPILI NG SUPERMODEL, SA PAGPILI NG EMPLEYADO NI DONALD TRUMP, SA PAGPILI NG PROFESSIONAL WRESTLER...
BAKA PATI PAGPILI SA SUSUNOD NA SANTO PAPA E GAWIN NANG REALITY TV SHOW.
BUTI PA 'YUNG IBANG ARTISTA AT SINGER, HINDI NA SILA DUMAAN SA PUBLIC HUMILIATION.
TIGNAN MO SILA SERENA DALRYMPLE AT NIKKI GIL-- ISANG COMMERCIAL LANG E SIKAT NA SILA.
IBA NAMAN 'YUNG STYLE NG LAOS NA AKTOR NA SI JOHN WILKES BOOTH.
BINARIL N'YA SI LINCOLN KAYA 'YON... SA SOBRANG SIKAT N'YA E NASA HISTORY BOOKS PA S'YA NGAYON.
IDOL!

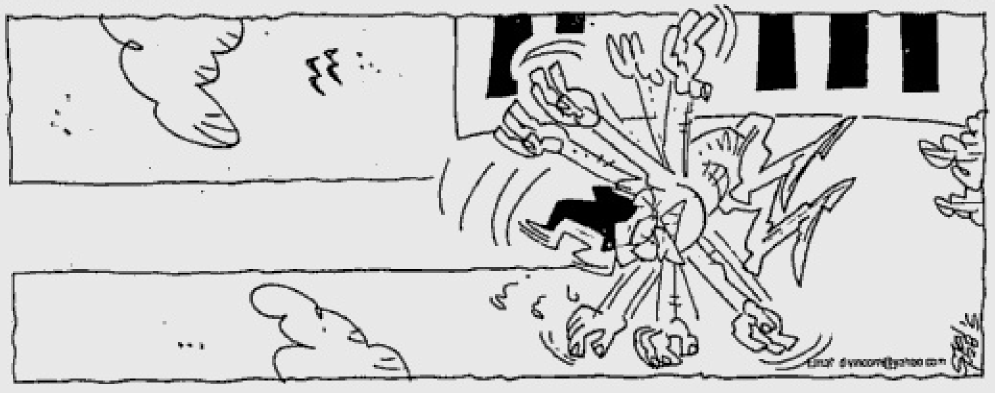
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I PREFER A SHOWER.

DIVINE COMEDY

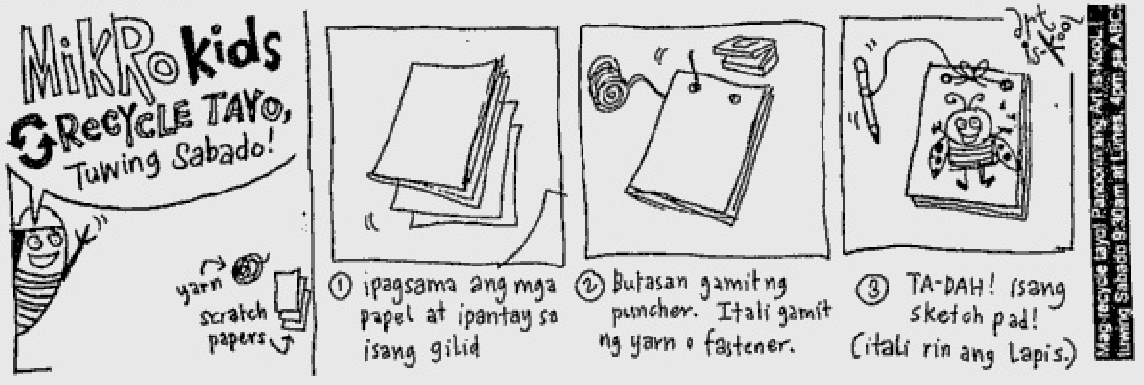
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



NAGPAKAMATAY SI ANDRES AT TUMALON SA BUILDING SA AYALA PERO BIGLA NYANG NAALALA NA SA IMPIYERNO PALA ANG PUNTA NYA

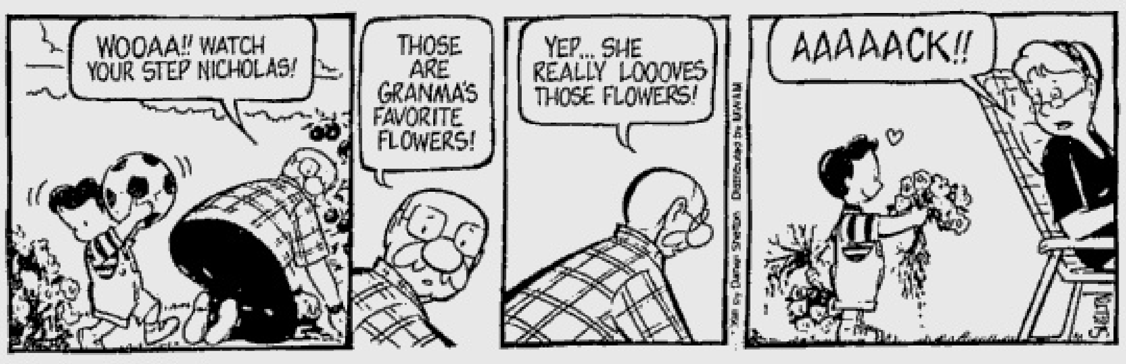
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRoKids
RecYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
yarn
scratch papers
① ipagsama ang mga papel at ipantay sa isang gilid
② Butasan gamit ng puncher. Itali gamit ng yarn o fastener.
③ TA-DAH! Isang sketch pad! (itali rin ang lapis.)
Art is Kool
Mag-recycle tayo! Panoorin ang Art is Kool, tuwing Sabado 9:30am at Lines 4pm sa ABC

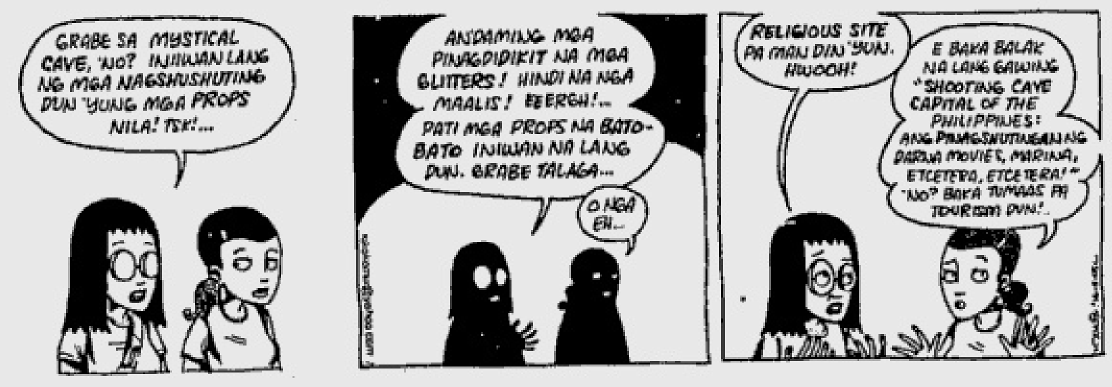
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WOOAA!! WATCH YOUR STEP NICHOLAS!
THOSE ARE GRANMA'S FAVORITE FLOWERS!
YEP... SHE REALLY LOOOVES THOSE FLOWERS!
AAAAACK!!

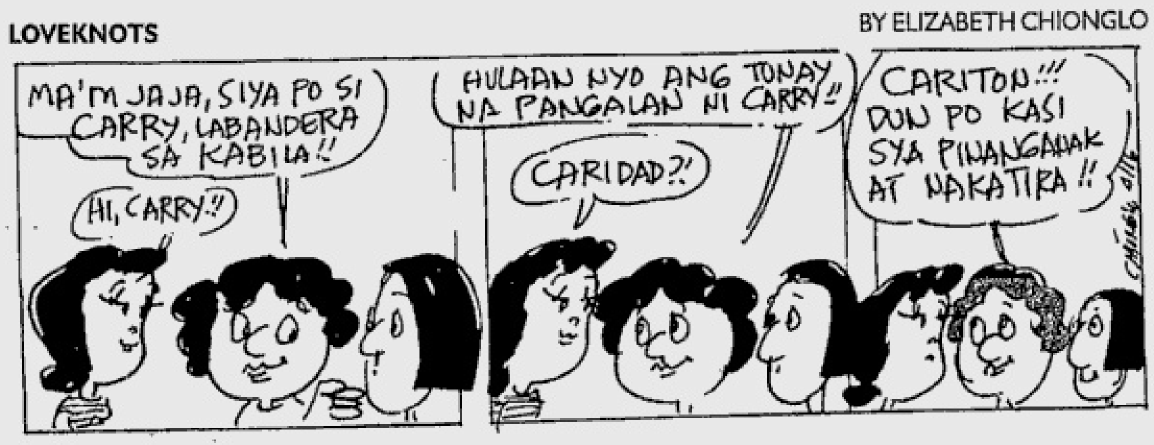
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE SA MYSTICAL CAVE, 'NO? INIIWAN LANG NG MGA NAGSHUSHUTING DUN 'YUNG MGA PROPS NILA! TSK!...
ANDAMING MGA PINAGDIDIKIT NA MGA GLITTERS! HINDI NA NGA MAALIS! EEERGH!...
PATI MGA PROPS NA BATO-BATO INIIWAN NA LANG DUN. GRABE TALAGA...
O NGA EH...
RELIGIOUS SITE PA MAN DIN 'YUN. HUUOH!
E BAKA BALAK NA LANG GAWING "SHOOTING CAVE CAPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES: ANG PINAGSHUTINGAN NG DARNA MOVIES, MARINA, ETCETERA, ETCETERA!" 'NO? BAKA TUMAAS PA TOURISM DUN!

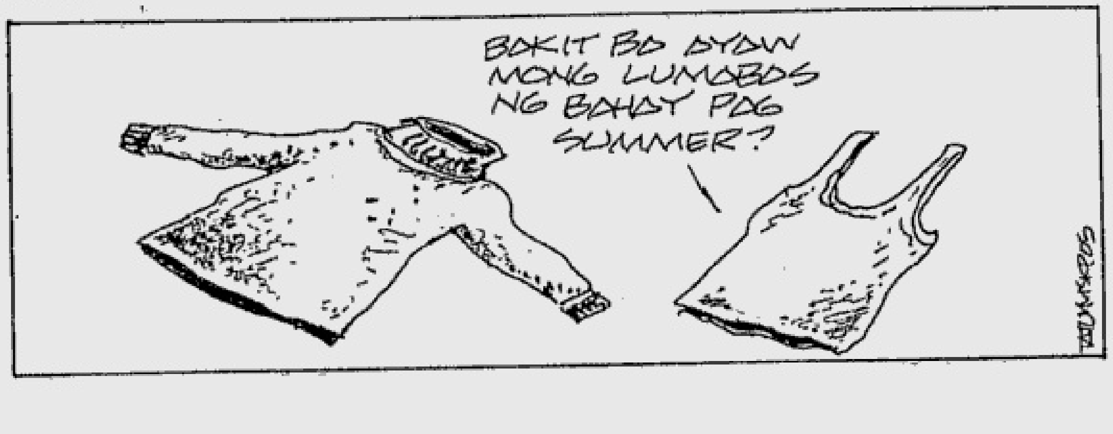
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MA'M JAJA, SIYA PO SI CARRY, LABANDERA SA KABILA!!
HI, CARRY!!
HULAAN NYO ANG TUNAY NA PANGALAN NI CARRY!!
CARIDAD?!
CARITON!!! DUN PO KASI SYA PINANGANAK AT NAKATIRA!!

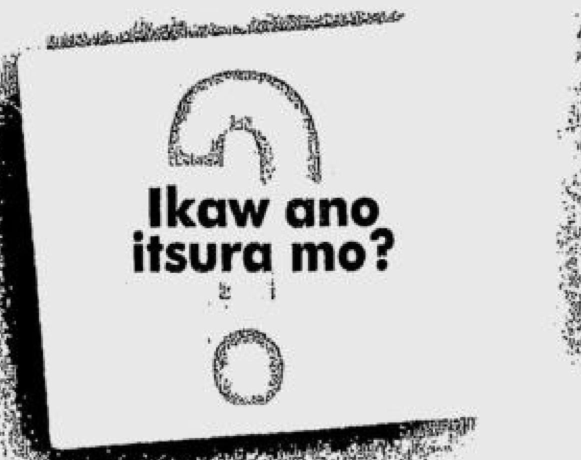
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT BA AYAW MONG LUMABAS NG BAHAY PAG SUMMER?

Ano kaya ang reaksyon mo pag nanalo ka ng P1,000,000.00 tax-free!

1. suspicious


Ikaw ano itsura mo?

9. "Ows, stop kidding me anymore"

8. over-confident

2. deadma lang

10 expressions of a new millionaire, what's yours?

7. nakakalokah

3. heaven

4. "I can't believe it anymore"

5. shocked

6. tuwa to the max

The PLDT P10 per call P1Million Challenge!

That's right, folks! One million pesos in cold cash ang naghihintay sa PLDT subscriber na may pinakamaraming tawag from April 11 to May 11. Kaya mo to? Ready, get set, go! Tawag lang nang tawag at baka ikaw na ang automatic millionaire!

Mayroon din Ten (10) winners ng instant negosyo showcase worth P150,000.00 each consisting of PLDT Cards (Touch Card, Telesulit, Budget Card and Vibe internet card) plus P10,000.00 in cash.

At di lang yan, linggu-linggo, sasagutin ng PLDT ang latest monthly bill ng 10 masuswerteng subscribers.

plus
10 Winners
ng instant negosyo showcase worth
P150,000.00
of pang-negosyo cards
and
P10,000.00
cash

WITH OVER 20 MILLION SUBSCRIBERS NG PLDT AT SMART NA PWEDENG TAWAGAN NATIONWIDE, YOU WILL NEVER RUN OUT OF REASONS TO CALL. PERSONAL O BUSINESS CALL MAN.

Wala ka pang PLDT landline? Magpakabit na para makasali!

Abangan ang pagdalaw ng **BILIS KABIT TEAM** na mamimigay ng **FREE INSTALLATION** at **FREE PHONES** sa mga sumusunod na lugar: Bacolod, Baguio, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cavite, Cebu, Dagupan, Iloilo, Laguna, La Union, Malolos, Mandaluyong, Pampanga, Pasig, Rizal at Tarlac.

Focolare's special show highlights love, family unity

By Nestor U. Torre

THE FOCOLARE Movement in the Philippines is staging a significant production, "FamilyFest 2005," at the Ynares Center in Antipolo tonight. The special presentation highlights love and unity in the family through song, dance, mime, testimonies and depictions of the key "seasons" of life as they come to bear on the members of the family.

Even better, the Philippine event dovetails with a worldwide telecast on the same theme, with Rome, Italy as the main venue of the presentation.

With inputs from the Philippine production, it will be telecast live in the Philippines via ABC-5 at 9:30 p.m., and will be received via 36 satellites by over 500 TV channels around the world, with an estimated total viewership of almost a billion people!

Excerpts

Philippine excerpts to be used in the global show include a report on the housing project that Focolare has started in Cebu. Similar excerpts will be beamed from Sao Paolo in Brazil, Brussels in Belgium, Toronto in Canada, and Zagreb in Croatia.

Portions of the FamilyFest in Rome will likewise become a part of the show at Ynares Center, including the taped address by Focolare founder Chiara Lubich, and messages from other international civic, political and religious leaders.

Since 1981, all FamilyFests have been addressed by Pope John Paul II. Now that he's passed away, the global presentation bears the title "To the Pope of Families," as a fitting tribute to the late Holy Father.

LUBICH (RIGHT) BEING BLESSED BY POPE JOHN PAUL II.
Believes in the importance of interfaith rapprochement.

Focolare will also compile his past FamilyFest messages in honor of the great religious leader who was respected and loved by families of all faiths.

If you want to attend FamilyFest 2005 at Ynares Center, call 0917 8170123 for particulars.

Focolare is now present in 182 nations all over the world. The 2005 show's theme echoes one of the Movement's key tenets: "Only Love Builds Peace." Previous FamilyFests were held in 1981, 1983, 1988, 1998 and 2000 in Rome.

In 2002, a mini FamilyFest was held in Manila for 300 Asian delegates to the fourth World Meeting of Families held at the Movements' Mariapolis in Tagaytay.

Peace

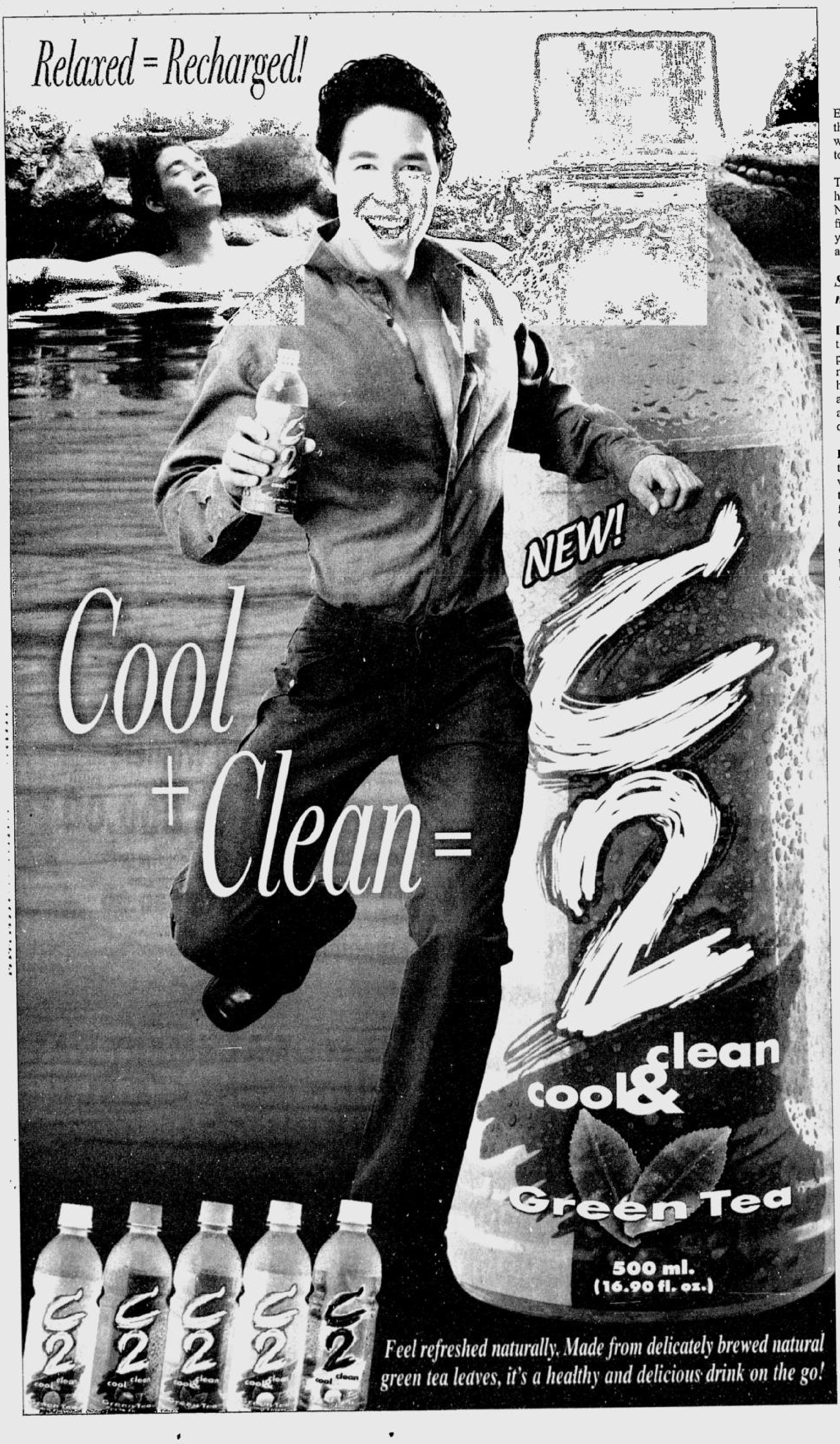
Echoing Pope John Paul II's belief in the importance of interfaith rapprochement in promoting genuine peace and unity around the world, FamilyFest 2005 will include the participation of religious and lay associations and movements of numerous Christian churches, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and people of other faiths.

The global event that is FamilyFest 2005 proves that the unity of fractious humanity is no longer a dream—it's already taking place. And it's especially noteworthy that the presentation is focusing on the family, the unity and ideals of which are being sorely tested today.

Thus, the presentation highlights testimonies of the joys and sorrows, solidarity and communion, as well as problems and threats related to the family.

Not at all theoretical and in fact taken from life, the testimonies suggest ways that families can remain loving and united despite the many challenges they face, and how they can contribute to world peace.

Those are important inputs, and more than enough reason for us to catch "FamilyFest 2005" tonight, either at the Ynares Center or on ABC-5.



Feel refreshed naturally. Made from delicately brewed natural green tea leaves, it's a healthy and delicious drink on the go!

C2 Green Tea: It's delicious, it's health-tea!

Everybody drinks iced tea these days. What they don't realize is that most of the time, what they are drinking is more sugar than tea!

The good news is there's a new kind of healthy iced tea available in the market. New C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea, made from delicately brewed natural tea leaves so you not only feel deliciously refreshed, you'll also get all the health benefits of green tea.

Stay fit to a Tea! Green tea's numerous health benefits:

It's an antioxidant! Studies have shown that green tea has many health-giving properties. It is a powerful antioxidant which means it can help protect the body from harmful micro-organisms. Because of this antioxidant property, it is also recognized as a helpful tool in preventing the development of cancer cells.

Helps burn fat! Green tea is also good for those people trying to lose or maintain their weight. Green tea has a thermogenic effect that produces heat in the body that results in fat burning. It also initiates faster metabolism causing the body to burn fat at a faster rate.

Controls cholesterol! Green tea thins the blood and decreases the possibility of cholesterol formation inside the blood vessels. Instead of absorbing the cholesterol, green tea prompts the body to increase the amount of fat excreted as waste. This reduces the risks on the heart and blood pressure.

Tea-licious!

Unlike some other things that are healthy, C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is actually really delicious. People who are used to softdrinks and sweet juices will surely enjoy its light and refreshing taste. It won't be hard to convert to a habit of drinking something healthier and better for you. Even picky children and teenagers may enjoy C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea's yummy taste.

Spa in a Sip

Much like going to the spa, C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is both relaxing and recharging. Its delicious taste, especially when served cold, is very refreshing while all the real tea benefits make you feel reinvigorated! So anytime you need to feel both refreshed and recharged, a sip of C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is all you need. It's like experiencing an inner spa.

Tea Take-out

All this goodness is now bottled and ready to be consumed anytime, anywhere. All at a very reasonable price!

C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea is available in convenient and resealable plastic PET bottles. It comes in five delicious flavors: Green Tea Plain, Lemon, Apple, Peach and Iced Tea Lemon. The suggested retail price of the 350 ml bottle is only P10, while the bigger 500 ml is only P15.

It's now available at your favorite supermarkets and convenience stores. So grab a chilled bottle of C2 Cool & Clean Green Tea and enjoy a new kind of healthy refreshment.

BUSINESS

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

OFW remittances soar 18.5% in Feb.

By Doris C. Dumlao

DOLLAR inflows from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) rose by 18.5 percent to $720 million in February from a year ago even as fresh migration restrictions in some host countries slowed down offshore deployment.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officer-in-charge Alberto Reyes yesterday reported that the remittances in February brought the two-month OFW inflows to $1.4 billion, or 17.2 percent better than the level in the same period last year.

Reyes said the increase in OFW remittances was due mainly to the deployment of higher-paid Filipino workers such as nurses, engineers and musicians.

"This muted the effect of the 2-percent contraction in the total number of deployed OFWs due in part to the stringent implementation of immigration laws in some host economies, resulting in a delay or slowdown in the deployment process of Filipino workers abroad," he explained.

Citing documents from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Reyes said the number of land-based OFWs actually declined by 3.9 percent to 140,783 although the number of sea-based workers increased to 39,249.

"Also contributing to the higher remittances was the sustained marketing efforts by local commercial banks to attract remitters to use the banking channels by providing efficient modes of fund transfers, establishing additional remittance centers abroad, forging arrangements with foreign financial institutions and offering incentives to deposit accounts of beneficiaries of worker-remittances," Reyes said.

Among the incentives were more a relaxed maintaining balance, lower service charge and free insurance coverage.

Through the years, the Philippines has been relying on huge remittances from OFWs to boost domestic consumer demand. In 2004, OFW inflows pumped $8.5 billion into the economy.

The International Monetary Fund, for its part, has urged developing countries which enjoy huge migrant remittances like the Philippines to intervene in lowering transaction costs so as to maximize the benefits of these inflows.

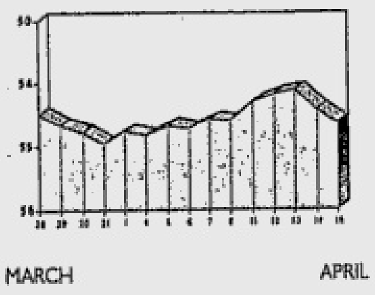
The study estimated that trans-

OFWs/ B6

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



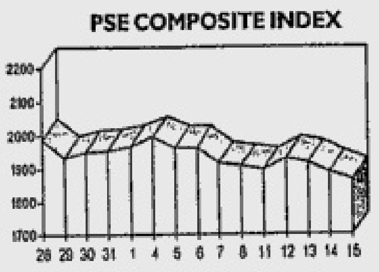
P54.630 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 15, 2005

¥108.31 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 15, 2005

GOLD: $429.30-429.80
per ounce Hong Kong, April 12, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares end at 13-week low


PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

SHARES ended at their lowest level in 13 weeks yesterday, led by losses in blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., traders said.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell below its 1,870-1,880 support range with a loss of 23.41 points, or 1.2 percent, to close at 1,864.06—its worst finish since Jan. 12, when it ended at 1,820.57. On Thursday, the index declined 1.5 percent.

Yesterday's fall brings the total index loss to 3.3 percent since Wednesday.

PLDT was the most actively traded stock, ending down 2.2 percent at P1,365, following the 1.7-percent loss suffered by the company's American depositary receipts Thursday.

AP

Gov't backtracks on sale of Malampaya stake

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER accepting the offer of a Korean group to buy its 4.9-percent stake in the Malampaya natural gas find, the state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) has changed its mind and decided to reject the offer.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, PNOC-EC general counsel Elpidio Gamboa Jr. said the Privatization Council, after discussing the stake sale again, saw that the offer of the LG International Corp. (LGI)-led consortium was below current market prices.

"The Privatization Council noted that the price offered to PNOC-EC by LGI for the subject interest was no longer reflective of the current oil price," he said.

The PNOC and PNOC-EC boards and the Privatization Council last month approved the sale of almost half of PNOC-EC's 10-percent stake in the Malampaya natural gas project in Palawan to the LGI consortium.

However, before the sale could be consummated, the Privatization Council gave existing Malampaya consortium members Shell Philippines Exploration BV (Spex) and Chevron Texaco Malampaya the chance to challenge LGI's offer.

Just last week, Spex and Chevron Texaco decided to make their own offer for the 4.9-percent Malampaya stake that PNOC-EC was selling.

PNOC-EC did not mention anything about this particular offer, saying only that the stake sale would have to push through some time in the future as this was part of a government condition on a loan guarantee made some years ago.

Privatizing PNOC-EC's interest in Malampaya was one of the conditions that the national government set for the state firm in 1999 when it was given full guarantee for the $175-million loan it took out to acquire its 10-percent stake in the project.

Considering the potential of the natural gas project, however, negotiations were conducted between the departments of energy and of finance to consider a compromise that would allow PNOC-EC to fulfill that condition while maintaining some stake in the consortium.

PNOC-EC president Eduardo Mañalac said in an earlier inter-

GOV'T/ B6

stock up on
laughter
A DISTINCTIVE WAY OF LIFE at the
M
metropolitan

Revel in life's sweetest moments at The Metropolitan.

Spend the morning with your little ones, splashing about in the kiddie pool at the Metropolitan Athletic Club. Then, hop across the street to the mall, where you can indulge them in a toy and a movie. And at the end of the day, you can lounge around at home for cuddles, tickles and kisses.

At The Metropolitan, life simply gets sweeter, better and happier.

For a personal tour of the model units designed by Calma, Periquet and Orosa, visit The Edge showroom at One McKinley Place, Commercial Arcade, Bonifacio Global City. For inquiries, call 830-0455 to 57 or 0917-853-6539 or email us at sales@philtown.net

For as low as P12,000.00 a month

PHILTOWN
Philtown Properties, Inc.
An RFM subsidiary
10 Years of Building the Good Life!

First Holdings nets ₱3.3B in '04

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

LOPEZ-LED First Philippine Holdings Corp. reported a decline in its net earnings to P3.3 billion in 2004 from P3.8 billion in 2003 after setting aside funds for possible losses for its sister firm Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) yesterday, First Holdings said its share in Meralco's provision for probable losses was worth P1.2 billion. Meralco made provisions in the event of a final and executory adverse decision on its unbundling rate case pending before the Supreme Court.

First Holdings holds a 26-percent stake in Meralco.

Without this provision, net income for First Holdings would have been P4.5 billion, 18 percent more than the previous year's income.

Power-generation unit First Gen Corp. accounted for 93 percent of First Holdings' total revenues worth P39.89 billion. The three major operating companies of First Gen are First Gas Power Corp., which operates the 1,000-megawatt Santa Rita gas-fired plant in Batanags City; FGP Corp., operator of the adjoining 500-MW San Lorenzo plant, and Bauang Private Power Corp., operator of the 225-MW diesel-fired power plant in La Union.

First Gen's consolidated revenues grew 5.5 percent to P37.04 billion, tempered however by lower revenues of FGP. First Gen's net income fell 6.91 percent to P4.96 billion.

The previous year's results, however, included a one-time gain of P318 million from the sale of Panay Power Corp., which operates a 72-MW diesel plant in Iloilo City.

Sales for Meralco, on the other hand, grew 3.5 percent to 24,600 gigawatt-hours in 2004, reflecting the 4.8-percent growth in the commercial sector, 3.1 percent in the industrial sector and 2.5 percent from residential customers.

Meralco had 4.2 million customers as of end-2004.

The company also showed a net loss of P2.6 billion due to the huge provisions for probable losses amounting to P6.68 billion, net of tax effect of P3.14 billion.

First Holdings' tollways company, The Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), began commercial operations last February. The modernization of the North Luzon Expressway had a construction budget of $371 million and was completed five months ahead of the July 2005 deadline.

First Holdings' property arm Rockwell Land Corp. experienced brisk sales for its residential high-rise Manansala and Joya projects, with 98 percent and 52 percent sold. This resulted in a revenue increase of 54 percent to P437 million and a net income of P74 million, more than double the P34 million for the previous year.

Send resumés instantly

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB Market ONLINE

CURRENCIES

April 15, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.780457348	1.000000	54.2520
Japan	Yen	0.007217	0.009247	0.5017
United Kingdom	Pound	1.468587	1.881700	102.0860
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100076	0.128228	6.9566
Switzerland	Franc	0.642987	0.823859	44.6960
Canada	Dollar	0.628489	0.805283	43.6882
Singapore	Dollar	0.471604	0.604266	32.7826
Australia	Dollar	0.601833	0.771129	41.8353
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.070233	2.652590	143.9083
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208122	0.266667	14.4672
Brunei	Dollar	0.470183	0.602446	32.6839
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000105	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019657	0.025186	1.3664
UAE	Dirham	0.212502	0.272279	14.7717
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.281300	69.5131
Argentina	Peso	0.270757	0.346921	18.8212
Brazil	Real	0.303526	0.388908	21.0990
Denmark	Kroner	0.134182	0.171928	9.3274
India	Rupee	0.017884	0.022915	1.2432
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.205411	0.263193	14.2787
Mexico	New Peso	0.070207	0.089956	4.8803
New Zealand	Dollar	0.56302	0.721397	39.1372
Norway	Kroner	0.121427	0.155584	8.4407
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013144	0.016841	0.9137
South Africa	Rand	0.124574	0.159617	8.6595
Korea	Won	0.000766	0.000981	0.0532
Sweden	Kroner	0.108897	0.139530	7.5698
Syria	Pound	0.015035	0.019264	1.0451
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024616	0.031541	1.7112
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000364	0.000466	0.0253

ALL ROADS LEAD TO
Summer 2005 Mall Tour
acer
intel inside
centrino
MOBILE TECHNOLOGY
Baguio
L
U
Z
O
N
Pampanga
Manila
WE'RE HERE! AT FESTIVAL MALL
Mindoro
Romblon
Masbate
Samar
Panay
Iloilo
Leyte
Negros
Cebu
Bohol
A
N
Cagayan de Oro
MINDANAO
Davao
The heat is up!
The heat is up!
TARGUS
Apacer
Inquire here
ACER HOTLINE
815-3388
acer
Empowering People

Acer heats up the summer with a nationwide mall tour! Join us as we tour the country and experience an Acer fun-filled summer! Be there! Jam with us! Cheer with us! Get freebies! Win prizes!

ROAD SHOW LOCATION	DATE
Festival Mall	April 15, 16, 17 2005
SM Iloilo	April 22, 23, 24, 2005
SM Cebu	April 29, 30, May 1, 2005
SM Cagayan de Oro	May 6, 7 8, 2005
SM Davao	May 13, 14, 15, 2005
SM Baguio	May 20, 21, 22, 2005
SM Pampanga	May 27 28, 29, 2005
Market! Market!	June 3, 4, 5 2005
Megamall	June 10, 11, 12, 2005
Podium	June 30, 2005

Acer Kaakibat:
Metro Manila Accent Micro- 816-1803 • 634-1294 Complink- 920-9140 / 41 • 637-3988 E-hub Computers- 775-0140 / 41 Electroworld- 892-9120 • 633-1624 / 25 Silicon Valley- 371-5611 to 19 VillMan Computer Systems 892-2222 • 683-0532 / 33 **Provincial** Bacolod Business Computing Group (BCG)- (034)434-2539 Baguio Electroworld- (074)619-7685 / 86 Exponent Enterprises- (074)443-9384 Butuan Columbia Computers- (085)815-0275 Cagayan De Oro Columbia Computers [illegible] Cavite Silicon Valley [illegible] Cebu Accent Micro- [illegible] Silicon Valley- (032)234-0219 Dagupan Chimes Enterprises- (075)523 6974 Electroworld- (075)515-8420 Davao Columbia Computers [illegible] Silicon Valley [illegible] General Santos Columbia Computers [illegible] Laguna Electroworld [illegible] Pampanga ElectroWorld [illegible] Silicon Valley [illegible]

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 15, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	27	27	26.5	27	301,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	50	48.5	48.5	390,100
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	420
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.73	0.75	0.73	0.74	1,730,000
International Exch. Bank	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	27,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	33	31.5	32	199,000
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	27,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	5,400
Security Bank Corp.	28	28	28	28	100,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	10,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	285	285	285	285	380
Manulife Financial Corp.	2510	2510	2510	2510	80
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	487,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	150	150	150	150	3,700
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1680	1680	1660	1675	610
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15	15	14.75	14.75	11,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.06	1.08	3,933,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	845	845	840	840	66,270
Ipeople Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.35	136,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	400,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.05	7,500,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	903,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1365	1370	1360	1365	334,480
Philweb Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	11,900,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.25	17.25	16.75	17	30,300
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	24.25	23.75	24.25	513,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	3,327,000
Petron Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.4	1,695,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	147,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	140,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.1	7.1	7	7.1	729,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	4,580,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	190,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	33	33	33	33	208,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	108,200
RFM Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.88	0.91	470,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	58	57	58	127,700
San Miguel Corp. B	82.5	82.5	81.5	82.5	534,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.7	2,128,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.6	4.6	4.55	4.55	407,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.04	0.04	3,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.98	2	1.96	1.98	242,000
APC Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	400,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	41,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	14.25	14.25	14	14	2,700
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,520,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1.02	21,159,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	30,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,930,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	1,780,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	720,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3.05	2.95	2.95	1,823,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	130,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	9	9.2	9	9.1	771,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	47.5	47.5	45.5	46	1,894,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.0875	0.0875	1,300,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.42	1.46	1.42	1.46	91,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	277,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	620,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	10,000,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.92	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	247	249	246	248	1,083,220
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	3,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.235	0.235	43,010,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.8	1.94	1.8	1.82	754,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.125	3,200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	400,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.28	3,060,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.99	840,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.52	1.56	2,527,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.05	3.2	3.05	3.2	149,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	560,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	15	15	14.5	14.75	5,097,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7	7	7	7	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	5,763,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.4	1.42	1,285,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.93	0.92	0.92	450,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.43	4,070,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	13,159,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	150,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	154,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.3	7,076,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co., Inc. A	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	270,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.1	5.1	5	5	461,000
Benguet Corp. B	25	25	23.5	24	6,100
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.31	560,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.33	12,980,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.017	0.015	0.016	414,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.023	0.021	0.022	458,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	497,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1	1	0.95	0.96	3,420,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.26	1.26	1.16	1.16	3,913,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	35	35.5	35	35.5	78,300
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	28,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	17,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	109,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.18	10,030,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.38	0.41	0.37	0.38	4,530,000

DISCLOSURES

SOUTH China Resources Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to June 3 at 2 p.m.

* * *

FILINVEST Land Inc. will increase its authorized capital stock to P16 billion from P10 billion.

* * *

PRIMEX Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 27, 3 p.m. at the Marikina Function Room of Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of March 31 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

LMG Chemicals Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 3, 2 p.m. at the 7/F boardroom of Chemphil Building, Makati City.

* * *

CHEMICAL Industries of the Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 3, 10 a.m. at the 7/F boardroom of Chemphil Building, Makati City.

* * *

MEGAWORLD Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 17, 9 a.m. at the Eastwood City Information Center, Quezon City. Stockholders of record as of May 2 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

EEI Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 17, 10 a.m. at the RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of March 31 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MACONDRAY Plastics Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 25, 10 a.m. at Km. 13 Agusan National Highway, Davao City. Stockholders of record as of April 25 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

UNIVERSAL Robina Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 5, 5 p.m. at the Ballroom of Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Quezon City. Only stockholders of record as of April 5 are entitled to vote during the meeting.

* * *

FIRST Metro Investment Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 26, 4 p.m. at the Penthouse of Metrobank Plaza, Makati City Only stockholders of record as of March 14 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 27, 2 p.m. at the Rizal Ballroom A of Makati Shangri-La. Only stockholders of record as of March 15 are entitled to vote during the meeting.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Corporate income tax hike seen to bring in ₱15B more

THE GOVERNMENT stands to generate P15 billion in additional revenue a year from the planned increase of the corporate income tax rate from 32 to 35 percent, estimates of the Department of Finance showed.

Should the hike be implemented, the target collection for the corporate income tax would be increased from the original goal of P160.4 billion to P175.4 billion. In 2004, the government collected only P131.4 billion in corporate income tax.

The increase in corporate income tax was pushed forward by the Senate committee on ways and means as an alternative to the proposal of the Arroyo administration to increase the value-added tax from 10 to 12 percent.

For the committee, chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto, increasing the corporate income tax was preferable than the proposed VAT hike because the former would only cover businesses. On the other hand, the VAT hike, would affect a larger number of taxpayers, including consumers, the committee said.

The Senate on Wednesday approved its version of the VAT reform bill, which lifted the exemptions of several products and services. The Senate bill, however, kept the VAT rate at 10 percent.

The DOF, the agency tasked with improving the government's poor fiscal standing, does not support the plan to raise the corporate income tax rate despite the additional revenue the measure is supposed to generate.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said that while the DOF would not move to oppose the bill, the government agency would neither back the bill.

The DOF still favors the increase in the VAT, Bonoan said.

Finance Assistant Secretary Gil Beltran said it was more practical to raise the VAT than the corporate income tax.

"The Senate is thinking the wrong way," Beltran told reporters. "By increasing the corporate income tax, we are going against the trend in other countries. It would do us better if we get more investments, and then collect more taxes from those."

Michelle V. Remo

Gov't to remove sovereign guarantees on GOCC loans

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT has taken the initial step to remove the sovereign guarantees enjoyed by state-owned companies, whose losses are said to have aggravated the country's fiscal problem.

According to Finance Assistant Secretary Gil Beltran, the Fiscal Responsibility bill, which seeks to take away the state guarantee on the borrowings of government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs), has already been filed in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management will begin lobbying for the bill once Congress has passed the much-awaited bill seeking to reform the value-added tax system.

The proposal to remove the automatic provision of sovereign guarantees to state-owned companies gained ground last year when the heavy losses of the GOCCs prompted Congress to call for an inquiry into the way the firms were being managed.

Senators even urged Malacañang to sack the heads of the GOCCs who were found to be enjoying fat salaries despite weak financial performance of the firms.

Aside from taking away the sovereign guarantees, the bill also contains a provision that will hold accountable the officers of losing state-owned firms, Beltran said.

"If a certain institution posts a deficit, then the head of that institution will have to explain before Congress," Beltran said in an interview.

The DOF earlier reported that the consolidated public sector debt stood at P4.6 trillion as of September 2003. The figure was 94.8 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

Of the debt figure, the national government accounted for P3.7 trillion, while the 14 GOCCs being monitored by the DOF held the remaining P1.7 trillion. The biggest debt contributor among the 14 GOCCs was the National Power Corp., which accounted for P1.4 trillion, of the total amount.

"The bill seeks to impose (fiscal) discipline on everybody," Beltran said.

Also, the bill requires the legislature and the executive branches to practice prudence in spending. The bill contains a provision stating that a government agency may not undertake an out-of-budget program or activity, and that Congress may not enact a law approving an expenditure without identifying sources of revenue.

Beltran said the DOF and the DBM expect the bill to sail smoothly in the legislature once deliberations on the VAT bill has been concluded.

Landbank loans to farmers hit ₱2B in Jan-Feb

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE LAND BANK of the Philippines reported that it had provided some P2.09 billion in loans to small farmers and fisherfolk in January and February this year.

According to Margarito Teves, Landbank president and CEO, the figure was 36 percent higher than the P1.54 billion released for the same period last year.

The loans benefited close to 75,000 farmers and fisherfolk nationwide, and was channeled through almost 450 cooperatives, 226 countryside financial institutions and agriculture lender Quedan Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp. (Quedancor).

"Our continued financial and technical support to the country's small farmers and fisherfolk reflects our commitment to this priority sector," Teves said.

Farmers and fisherfolk in Luzon received the largest share at P1.2 billion, while those in Mindanao and Visayas received P518 million and P391 million respectively.

LandBank has recently availed of a P1.5 billion rediscounting window, which it would issue to Quedancor.

Under that facility, Land Bank will buy the farmers' promissory notes from Quedancor.

In a related development, Landbank recently waived the 2-percent supervision fee of bank-accredited cooperatives as part of its continued support for the cooperative sector.

Key cooperatives are municipal-level groupings that meet Landbank's Accreditation Criteria for Class A or B co-ops.

NTC goes after telco operator riding on Globe network

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission is set to issue a cease-and-desist order against a Subic-based telco company that has been caught facilitating illegal international long distance operations using the wireless network of Globe Telecom Inc.

Globe Telecom Inc. in February called the attention of the NTC to the alleged operations of Global International (Subic) Phils. Corp.

The commission had already issued a show cause order against the Subic telco operator. Sources said a cease-and-desist order would follow.

Globe's fraud and risk detection unit monitored a bypass operation using a Globe mobile phone.

"Our monitoring system detected that a Globe subscriber, Global International, is conducting International Simple Resale service and our monitoring confirmed that the supposed domestic calls coming from their subscribed Globe numbers were actually international traffic coming from the United States," a Globe official said in a letter to the NTC.

Carriers like Globe and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. have claimed that they are losing substantial revenue in their overseas long distance operations due to operators of international facilities that bypass their system.

By disguising international calls as local calls, telco companies and the government are defrauded of millions of pesos in revenue since users of the service are exempt from paying toll charges, according to Globe.

RP outsourcing firms gain foothold in Europe

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL business process outsourcing service companies have secured a foothold in the European market as five of the firms have already bagged contracts and attracted the attention of possible clients in the continent's biggest information technology show held last month in Germany.

Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos yesterday said in a press briefing that the companies were able to negotiate contracts worth a total of $165,000 and generated 180 trade inquiries in the CeBIT expo in Hanover from March 10 to March 16.

The firms include the companies European IT Services Center (EITSC), Geebo Digital Studios, Offshore Call Center Experts (OCE), Offshore Data Corp. and SEComp International.

"(In CeBIT), we were able to position the Philippines as an outsourcing destination and ... expose the scale of development and innovation that exists in the ICT (information and communications technology) arena," Santos said.

He said the Philippine delegation focused on promoting their competitive pricing for offshore outsourcing contracts on a per project basis, vis-à-vis competitors from Ukraine, Romania, Iraq, India and Egypt.

Also, Santos said a number of Indian companies also eyed possible partnership with Filipino BPO companies.

Santos called on local BPO companies to also tap other outsourcing needs in Europe, such as the Universal Mobile Technology Standard (UMTS) where broadband technology is used to download and send data such as songs and picture files, security and network privacy, and other business solutions for small and medium IT enterprises.

Pacific Plans set to release tuition checks on weekend

THE OFFICES of Pacific Plans will be open this Saturday and Sunday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., to release the checks of beneficiaries for the current enrollment period.

Pacific Plans is also requesting plan holders who want to know how much tuition support they will get not to go to the PPI offices. The firm said the holders should just text in their names and plan numbers to the following cellular phone numbers: 0927-9379437; 0927-9379438; 0927-9379320; 0927-9379301.

PPI said that it would reply within 30 minutes from receipt of the text message.

The company already sent by courier all the relevant information in a letter. It has also put up the text center because some plan holders may have changed their address or may not have received their letter yet.

The company said it has P341 million in cash left for tuition support for the current enrollment period. Pacific Plans also said it would not have enough funds for future claims.

Last week, Pacific Plans filed with a Makati court a petition for rehabilitation.

It said in its petition that the tuition deregulation of the 1990s had resulted in runaway tuition.

It said though that its trust funds, consisting of government-guarantee bonds maturing in 2010, would generate enough funds to pay back its plan holders, plus 7 percent compounded interest, net, from the date of full payment.

Ayala Life to raise capital to ₱20B for public float

AYALA Life Fixed Income Fund Inc., one of the country's biggest mutual fund, is increasing its capital to P20 billion from P17 billion to increase its public float.

The increase is the fifth of an approved plan to increase its authorized capital stock to P50 billion endorsed by Ayala Life's board in May 2001.

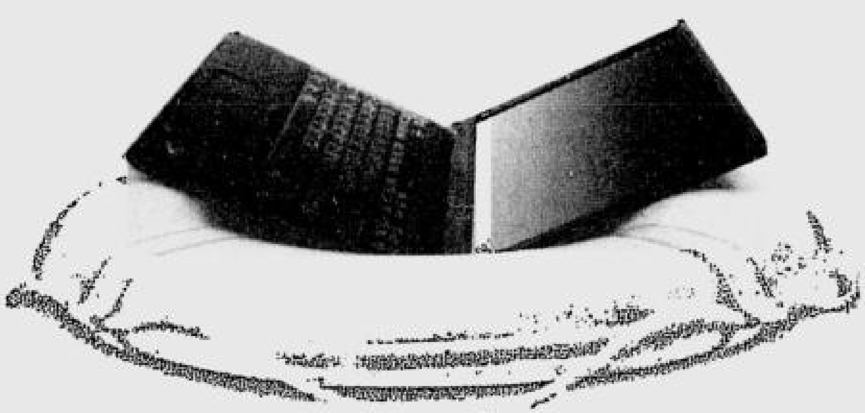
The mutual fund unit of the Ayala group said the increase is to make available new shares of the fund to be offered to the public.

Since January 2002, Ayala Life has increased its capital four times: from P5 billion to P7 billion, P9 billion, P12 billion, and then to P17 billion.

As of January 2005, at least 25 percent of the increase in authorized capital stock has been subscribed and fully paid.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

IBM recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional for Business.



MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

IBM ThinkPad R50e

Distinctive Innovation
Rescue & Recovery™
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery

System Features
Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
Pentium® M Processor 715 (1.5GHz)
Intel® Wireless 802.11b/g
Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
256MB DDR SDRAM
40GB hard disk drive
10/100 Ethernet Integrated
1-year Customer Carry-In Warranty
14.1" XGA TFT Display
FREE USB Travel Mouse

Express Price | PhP72,400.00† 1834PKA

Expect everything. Presenting the new IBM ThinkPad R50e notebook. Loaded with IBM ThinkVantage™ Technologies like IBM Rescue and Recovery™ - it restores* lost data at a touch of a blue button. Or there's the handy little IBM ThinkLight™, which lets you see what you're typing in dimly lit areas. And to protect your notebook against hard knocks of corporate travel, there is the HDD shock absorber. You'll find some are even powered by Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology. It's everything you have always expected of our technology.

Even an unexpected price of PhP72,400.00

Rescue and Recovery.
Only on a ThinkPad

IBM ThinkPad R50e

Distinctive Innovation
Rescue & Recovery™
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery

System Features
Intel® Pentium® M Processor 710 (1.4GHz)
Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
256MB DDR SDRAM
40GB hard disk drive
10/100 Ethernet Integrated
1-year Customer Carry-In Warranty
14.1" XGA TFT Display

Express Price PhP65,595.00† 1834TA4

[illegible]

IBM ThinkPad T42

Distinctive Innovations
Active Protection System
Helps protect hard drive from falls
Rescue & Recovery™
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery
Fingerprint Reader

System Features
Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
Pentium® M Processor 735 (1.7GHz)
Intel® Wireless 802.11b/g
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
512MB DDR SDRAM
40GB hard drive
GB Ethernet Integrated
3-year Customer Carry-In Warranty
14.1" SXGA TFT Display
FREE Kensington Lock

Express Price PhP126,895.00† 2373K5A

IBM ThinkPad X40

Distinctive Innovations
Active Protection System
Helps protect hard drive from falls
Rescue & Recovery™
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery

System Features
Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
Pentium® M Processor LV 758 (1.5GHz)
Intel® Wireless 802.11b/g
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB RAM
40GB hard drive
GB Ethernet Integrated
3-year Customer Carry-In Warranty
12.1" XGA TFT Display
FREE Executive Slip Case and USB 2.0 Portable Combo Drive

Express Price | PhP121,795.00† 2371J6A

IBM

995 2426 | 1 800 1888 1426 | direct@ph.**ibm.com**
Monday to Saturday 9am – 6pm and Sunday 9am – 3pm

IBM Partners: ABC Computers Co., Inc. • Accent Micro Products, Inc. • Advance Microsystems Inc. • Advance Solutions, Inc • American Technologies, Inc. • Aries IT Systems • ATP Peripherals Phils., Inc. • Axis Computers • Axis International, Inc • Ayala Systems Technology Inc. • Columbia Technologies, Inc • Eco I.T. Solutions Corporation • Electroworld Office Systems • Information Products Corporation • MG Business Systems, Inc. • Micro Image Company, Ltd • Micro Pacific Technologies & Systems Corporation • Microbase, Inc • Microphase Enterprise Company • Northgate Technologies, Inc • Productivity Tech Services, Inc. • Questronix Corporation • Silicon Valley Computer Center • Valueline Systems & Solutions Corporation • Villman Computer Systems, Inc. • Virtuality Information Technology Systems • Zenshin Systems Corporation
IBM Corporate Resellers: Creative Technologies, Inc. • Ng Khai Development Corporation • Personal Computer Specialists, Inc. • SM Equicom Computer Services, Inc. • Unison Computer Systems, Inc.

[illegible]

SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**
Assistant Editor **Stella O. Gonzales**

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Talking may prevent suicide in teens

TRASH
STEPH8.

CHICAGO—Asking teenagers about suicide won't make them more likely to contemplate it, as some parents and school officials fear, a study suggests.

In fact, the study found that simply asking troubled students about any suicidal impulses appears to ease their distress and might make some of them less likely to try killing themselves.

The results confirm what many mental health experts already believe and should alleviate fears among some parents and schools that just mentioning suicide might plant the idea in teens' minds, said study author Madelyn Gould, a researcher at Columbia University and New York Psychiatric Institute.

Questionnaires

Gould's study involved 2,342 students at six suburban New York high schools who answered two mental health questionnaires two days apart. Half the students—the experimental group—also received about 20 suicide-related questions on both surveys.

The questions included whether they had considered suicide and whether they thought it would be better if they were dead. The other half got suicide-related questions only on the second survey.

The groups' scores on emotional distress measures were similar before and after the first survey. And roughly 4 percent in both groups said they had had suicidal ideas since the first survey.

Among teens with previous suicide attempts, the experimental group had slightly fewer suicidal ideas than the comparison group after the first survey. Among depressed teens, the experimental group had slightly less emotional distress than the comparison group after the first survey.

Unburdening oneself

Those results bolster the idea that asking troubled teens about suicide gives them a chance to "unburden themselves," while not asking may signal "that you don't care," said Lenny Berman, executive director of the American Association of Suicidology.

The study appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The notion that asking teens about suicide might be harmful stems from "the centuries-long history of suicide being stigmatized" as something to be avoided, Berman said.

"It comes from people who are anxious about even using the word." *AP*

Signs to watch out for

EXPERTS say a teenager might be contemplating suicide if he or she exhibits the following signs:

- Talking or writing about suicide
- Extreme irritability
- A major change in sleeping patterns
- A decline in academic performance
- Abandoning once-favored activities
- Avoiding friends
- Giving away favored possessions

AP

What to do

HERE are some ways you can be helpful to someone who is threatening suicide:

- Be direct. Talk openly and matter-of-factly about suicide.
- Be willing to listen. Allow expressions of feelings. Accept the feelings.
- Be nonjudgmental. Don't debate whether suicide is right or wrong, or whether feelings are good or bad. Don't lecture on the value of life.
- Get involved. Become available. Show interest and support.
- Don't dare him or her to do it.
- Don't act shocked. This will put distance between you.
- Don't be sworn to secrecy. Seek support.
- Offer hope that alternatives are available but do not offer glib reassurance.
- Take action. Remove means, such as guns or stockpiled pills.
- Get help from persons or agencies specializing in crisis intervention and suicide prevention.

From: The American Association of Suicidology

Partner's suicide raises person's own risk

LONDON—Partners of people who have committed suicide have a higher risk of taking their own lives, according to research published on Thursday.

Men who lost a partner to suicide were 46 times as likely to kill themselves, which is three times the risk of women in similar circumstances.

Dr. Esben Agerbo, of the University of Aarhus, in Denmark, said the suicide of a spouse is particularly indicative of suicide in men.

He wrote his findings in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health.

The findings are based on a study of 475,000 Danes, including 9,000 who committed suicide.

The loss of a child through suicide or other causes nearly doubled the risk of suicide in both parents.

Agerbo said men were less likely to seek support after the death of a partner and may have more undetected and untreated mental illness. This could explain the different results among the sexes. *Reuters*

Gregorio Velasquez, National Scientist

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

SCIENTISTS are heroes in their own right. The only couple in Philippine history wherein both husband and wife were awarded the country's highest scientific honor, National Scientist, was Doctors Gregorio T. and Carmen G. Velasquez. Ted Lloyd [jazzy_2100@yahoo.com] has this query:

Can you help me get more detailed information about the Velasquezes? I have to prepare a report on them.

Get hold of the book "National Scientists of the Philippines (1978-1998)," which has write-ups on most of our National Scientists. But I will discuss this remarkable couple thoroughly here. They have honored our country with their immeasurable contributions to flora and fauna.

Let us start with Dr. Gregorio Velasquez. (I acknowledge Sheila Siar's article in the book, from where much of the information below is taken.)

The father of Philippine phycology was best known for his studies of the local *Myxophyceae* or bluegreen algae. He was born on Sept. 2, 1901 in Barrio Calizon in Calumpit, Bulacan, and went to public elementary and high schools. In 1925, he graduated from the University of the Philippines with a degree in BS Botany, and started teaching there as an assistant professor.

Studies

In 1931, he obtained a master's degree in botany from UP, and in 1937, he got another from the University of Michigan. Two years later, he got a Ph.D. in the same field. He returned to teaching at UP, where he became professor in 1958, and retired in 1967. (He became professor emeritus.)

During his illustrious university career, he also assumed a lot of administrative positions, including chair of the UP Natural Science Research Council from 1962 to 1965 and director of the Philippine Science High School from 1964 to 1967.

He mentored a whole generation of scientists, who later became professors and researchers themselves. A couple of them, Dr. Magdalena Cantoria and Dr. J. D. Soriano, became Academicians.

Phycology

But his heart was always in research. For more than 30 years, he almost single-handedly established the science of phycology in our country. Early on he observed that the suburbs of Manila, including the canals and *estero*, had always been polluted by bluegreen algae. He decided to systematically investigate these plants and find ways of controlling their growth. He traveled to Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro, Eastern Palawan, Sulu, Batangas, Bataan and other places. He found that bluegreen algae is being used in India and Japan as a substitute for chemical fertilizers, and urged its use here.

During his career he produced 47 basic and 77 scientific papers, and in 1989 he published his magnum opus, the comprehensive "Phycological Research in the Philippines," which includes 1,145 species, 314 genera, 40 varieties and 11 forms of marine algae; plus 544 species, 162 general, 61 varieties, and 7 forms of freshwater algae.

International projects

He served as consultant for the then National Science Development Board, National Institute of Science and Technology, Bureau of Fisheries, and several universities. He was chair of the Biological Sciences Division of the National Research Council of the Philippines from 1967 to 1983. He also actively participated in international projects of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

He received numerous awards, among them the Distinguished Science Medal and Diploma of Honor from the Republic of the Philippines (1956), the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (1956 to 57), and the Republic of the Philippines Cultural Heritage Award (1972).

He became a member of the New York Academy of Sciences in 1965, and a Seato professor in Kasetsart University in Thailand from 1974 to 1975. He was elected member of the National Academy of Science and Technology in 1978 and became a National Scientist in 1982.

He married Carmen Camacho (his former student and a former Miss Dagupan) in 1935. She was renowned in her own field, zoology, and in fact became National Scientist herself a year after her husband.

Their daughter Juliet says that there was no rivalry between them. Knowledge was shared: her father loved plants, her mother, animals. Their interests also complemented each other: the father loved eating and jogging, while the mother loved cooking. Their marriage was a solid partnership for 50 years, until his death on July 29, 1989.

Next week we look at Dr. Carmen Velasquez.

* * *

The Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs Inc. will hold a National Youth Science, Technology and Environment Summer Camp on May 21-26 at the Hidden Paradise Mountain Resort, San Fernando, Cebu. Designed for high school students, the camp will focus on biotechnology. The PSYSC will arrange transportation to the camp venue from Cebu. Call 920-8174 or 920-9561, or e-mail psysc_inc@hotmail.com.

Dim sum too high in fat, salt

HONG KONG—Lovers of dim sum, beware. A study in Hong Kong has found the tiny, mouthwatering Chinese snacks are high in fat and sodium and excessive consumption will increase the risk of obesity.

"You definitely cannot have a dim sum meal every day because it's not possible to get a balanced diet that way," said Ho Yuk-yin, a consultant with the government's Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, who led the research.

The study on the Chinese culinary delights, which date back to the Sung Dynasty (960-1279), is the first of its kind anywhere in the world, Ho said.

Popular snacks

Researchers analyzed 75 popular dim sum snacks for carbohydrates, protein, total fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, dietary fiber, sugar, sodium and calcium.

Results showed that total fat, saturated fat and sodium were generally high while calcium and dietary fiber were low.

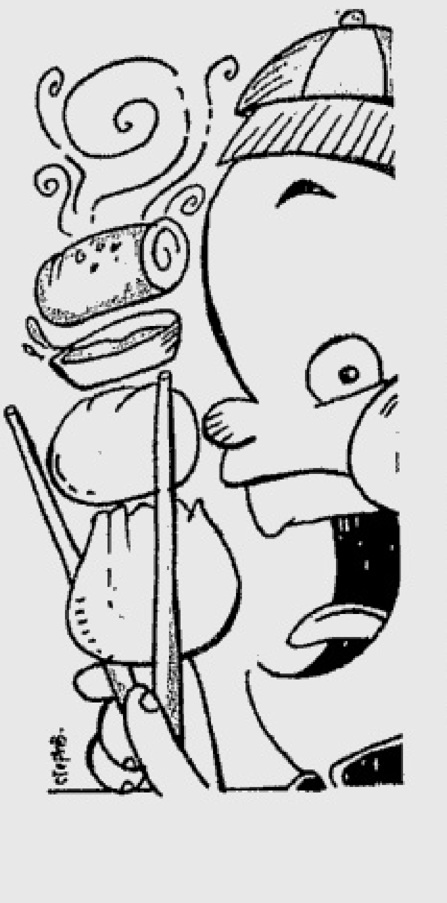
Some of the chief culprits were marinated jelly fish, which contained up to 18 grams of total fat a plate, or 230 calories. An innocent-looking piece of steamed beancurd sheet roll was found to contain 12 gm of fat, or 140 calories.

Ho warned that excessive intake of saturated fat in the long run will increase the risk of chronic health problems such as cardiovascular disease and some types of cancer, while too much salt will increase blood pressure.

Steamed than fried

For dim sum diehards, Ho recommended that they select dim sum dishes sensibly, ordering more steamed buns, for example, and fewer pan-fried and deep-fried items.

They should also eat half a plate of boiled vegetables, minus any sauce, and complement their diet later in the day with high-calcium foods such as dairy products, soybean curd and green leafy vegetables. *Reuters*



Study links autism, mother's illnesses

CHICAGO—Expectant mothers suffering from asthma, allergies or a type of skin disease have a higher risk of giving birth to an autistic child, a recent study said.

Asthma, allergies and psoriasis symptoms during pregnancy—especially if diagnosed in the second trimester—doubled the risk of autism in children compared to children who were not afflicted, said researchers from Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, California.

Autism is a mysterious condition that strikes roughly six in 1,000 children, mostly boys, and is associated with diminished social skills and an adherence to routines.

Extensive study

The study looked at 88,000 children belonging to the Kaiser Permanente health plan born in Northern California between 1995 and mid-1999, 420 of whom were diagnosed with autism.

The researchers said there was no statistical link between autism in children and 44 autoimmune diseases in mothers, including rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and multiple sclerosis.

The exception was psoriasis, which doubled the risk of autism.

Autoimmune diseases

Previous research has suggested there may be a link between autoimmune disease during pregnancy and autism, because autistic children often have high levels of autoimmune response chemicals in their bloodstreams. Women make up 78 percent of patients with autoimmune diseases, where the body's immune system attacks its own tissues.

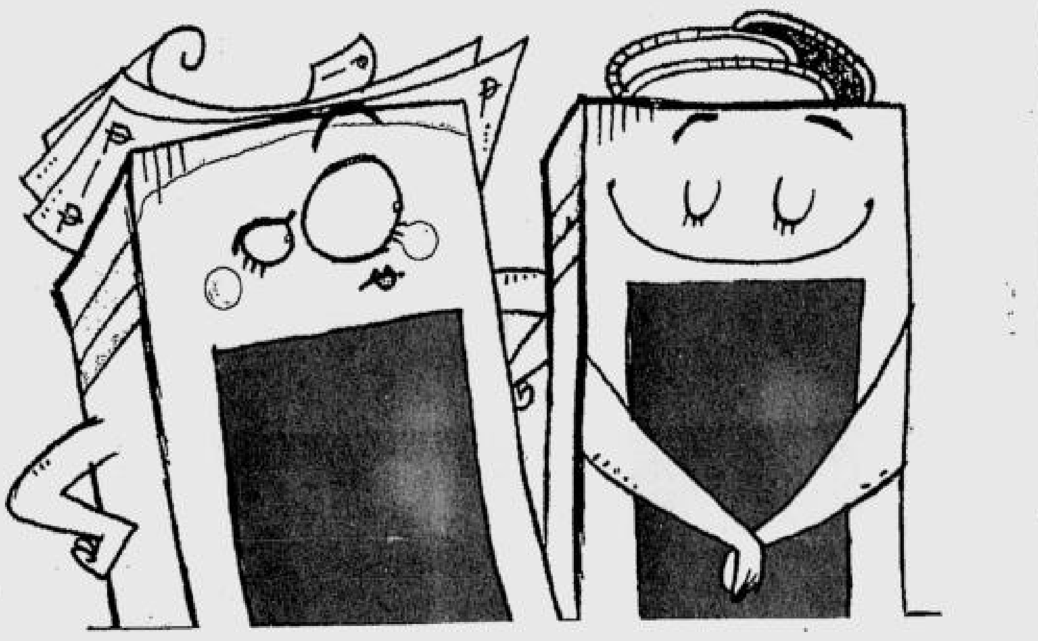
The report, which was published in The Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, speculated that there may be a common underlying genetic cause to such ailments as asthma and autism.

Or, because the mother's condition was frequently diagnosed in the second trimester, the flare-up may have caused her immune system to produce more cytokines, which are associated with inflammation and could have damaged fetal brain development.

Reuters

No to parallel importation, yes to generics, says pharma group

By Tessa R. Salazar



THE WAY to reduce prices of medicines in the Philippines is not through parallel importation but through the strict implementation of the generics law.

Leo Wasmer, executive vice president and chief executive officer of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP), made this point during a recent interview with the INQUIRER.

Wasmer said consumers, instead of purchasing cheap counterfeit drugs, could choose from a wide array of low-cost generics. He said that if the government would only implement the generics law properly, then consumers would have more access to affordable medicines.

Wasmer claimed that drug counterfeiters have taken advantage of the government's policy of parallel importation. He said counterfeiters manufacture fake drugs and label them "Made in India" to make it appear that the medicines are part of the parallel imports of the government.

Move to stop imports

According to Ronaldo de Veyra of the Department of Health's legal office, the PHAP has filed a petition for injunction against the DOH, the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC) and the Department of Trade and Industry to stop parallel importation.

The PITC is the only company allowed to import drugs from India.

Parallel importation is defined by the DTI as the importation of off-patent finished drug products with registered counterpart brands in the Philippines at considerably lower prices.

The DOH said those being imported are quality, safe medicines.

The following are the criteria for the selection of parallel importation:

- The drugs should address the leading causes of sickness and death in the Philippines (e.g. diabetes, hypertension, asthma, bronchitis).
- The drugs should be the most commonly prescribed brands widely recognized by the public.
- The drugs offer the widest price differentials relative to prevailing retail market prices.

Cheaper drugs

An article on the DOH website said the prices of medicines in the Philippines are sometimes 10 times higher compared with those in other countries in the region.

In July 2001, President Macapagal-Arroyo made a commitment to the country's poor by promising to reduce the prices of drugs and medicines by 50 percent. The government has identified parallel importation as one way by which this could become a reality. Promoting the use of generic drugs was another way.

Wasmer estimated that the government has imported $500 million worth of medicines in the past three to four years. But because the government does not have sufficient money, Wasmer said imports have not become not a "regular thing."

He lamented that the Generics Law, which has been in existence for 18 years, has yet to be implemented properly.

"The future is going to be generics. It is really a very simple issue that can be solved if somebody had the political will to advocate generics," he said.

"When doctors prescribe [medicines], they are required to write the generic name of the drug in the prescription. It's all in the Generics Law. This is why we cannot understand why the government has not taken an iron hand in the implementation of [the law]," Wasmer said.

Drug recommended for severe cases of osteoporosis

By Charles E. Buban

IN NOVEMBER 2002, the US Food and Drug Administration approved a new class of drugs that treats osteoporosis particularly in postmenopausal women who have an increased risk of fractures in the hip, spine and wrist.

What is unique about this drug, called teriparatide, is the way it addresses bone loss. While other drugs treat the disease by blocking the action of osteoclasts (cells associated with the absorption and removal of bone) to slow or stop bone loss, teriparatide increases the action of osteoblasts, the body's bone-building cells.

"We feel this is an important drug," says Dr. Antonio Tanchuling Jr., an orthopedic surgery consultant at St. Luke's Medical Center. "With the approval of teriparatide, we now have more treatment options available for our osteoporosis patients in whatever stage of severity their disease may be in."

The drug is recommended for cases of severe osteoporosis, where bone mineral density (BMD) is quite low and for patients who have fractures or who have failed or are intolerant to other therapies.

Teriparatide is also recommended for men with primary or hypogonadal (low testosterone) severe osteoporosis, who have not improved with, or are unable to take, other treatments.

Teriparatide is injected into the patient once daily.

Its manufacturer, Eli Lilly (which markets the drug under the name, Forteo), says teriparatide is a synthetic form of parathyroid hormone, a primary regulator of calcium and phosphate metabolism in bones, which is naturally found in the body.

Clinical trials

The effectiveness of teriparatide is backed by clinical studies, including the Fracture Prevention Trial that studied its effects on bone mineral density and fractures of 1,637 postmenopausal women with osteoporosis and prior vertebral fracture. The women, who were treated for an average of 19 months, took either 20 mcg or 40 mcg of teriparatide a day, or placebo. They were also given calcium and vitamin D supplementation.

Those given teriparatide showed significant increases in bone mineral density at the spine and hip compared to patients taking only calcium and vitamin D supplementation. It also showed that the risk of fractures in postmenopausal women decreased by 65 percent for spinal fractures and 53 percent for all other fractures caused by osteoporosis.

Side effects

There are, however, concerns about the side effects of the drug. Although some patients reported mild side effects, including nausea, dizziness and leg cramps, much attention went to another trial, involving rat subjects wherein some animals injected with the drug developed osteosarcomas, a rare and serious cancer of the bone.

"But this should not be cause for alarm," says Tanchuling. During the 19-month Fracture Prevention Trial and another 10-month trial on 437 men, no patient developed bone cancer, according to him.

Tanchuling says teriparatide is only for patients with very low BMD and used for only a short duration—up to 18 months.

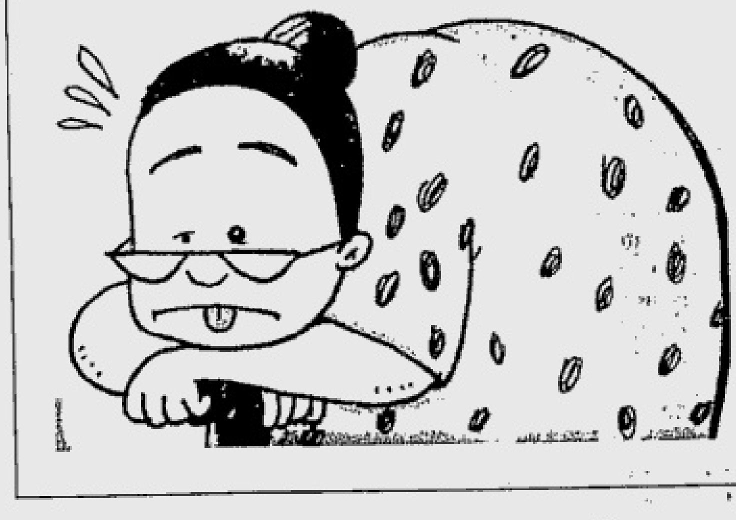
Diet, exercise

For Tanchuling, the best prevention against bone loss is having a healthy diet, composed of calcium-rich food like *malunggay*, *dilis*, crustaceans, tofu, *pechay* and other green leafy vegetables.

The doctor says it's also essential to get regular exercise such as walking, jogging and anything that puts stress on the bones.

"Smoking may increase one's chances of developing osteoporosis, and so can drinking too much alcohol," says Tanchuling. "So it's also important to get plenty of calcium throughout life because once you've lost bone, it's hard to get it back."

According to the International Osteoporosis Foundation, osteoporosis afflicts an estimated one-third of women aged 60 to 70, and two-thirds of women aged 80 or older. Approximately 200 million women worldwide suffer from the disease.



When people play God

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

THE DUST has settled on the Terri Schiavo case, but the debate on the morality and legality of euthanasia still rages and remains a favorite topic when doctors gather over coffee. Terri's was a case of euthanasia, and opinions are diverse whether or not it was justified.

Euthanasia is defined as the intentional killing by doing something (active) or the omission of a necessary support to sustain life (passive) on a dependent human being for his or her alleged benefit.

The key word here is "intentional." If death is not intended, it is not an act of euthanasia. Thus, some actions by healthcare givers labeled "passive euthanasia" are not really euthanasia, since there is no intention to take life. These acts include withholding treatment that would not provide benefit or has been shown to be ineffective to the patient, is too burdensome or is unwanted, and the giving of high doses of painkillers that may endanger life. These, in fact, are part of good medical practice and reflect sound medical judgment.

The intention to cause death and the premeditation to induce it are what make euthanasia akin to murder. But it's supposed to be "justified murder" because the "benefit" of the subject in terms of relieving him/her from further misery is the primary concern. But isn't that like playing God?

MEDICAL FILES

Did the husband, judge and doctors play God by deciding that Terri should be made to go by withholding tube feeding, a usual or customary support? They believed that her existence was so bad that she was better off dead.

If it were an extraordinary support that was withdrawn, such as breathing support with a respirator, there would have been no fuss. But withholding feeding to someone who's not brain-dead is perceived as similar to withholding feeding to a baby who's not capable of feeding himself.

It was not a simple case of letting go, because Terri was no longer mentally capable of asking to be allowed to go. It was a nonvoluntary euthanasia by omission since the death was caused by not providing feeding. Terri was made to slowly starve herself to death, which took a few weeks. Probably, it would have been more humane if they gave her a lethal injection so she didn't have to suffer a slow death.

Criteria

Terri's case will bother many consciences for quite a while. It did not convincingly fulfill the criteria that can possibly justify euthanasia. These are:

1. The patient is suffering from a terminal illness.

2. He is unlikely to benefit from the discovery of a cure for the illness during what remains of his life expectancy.

3. He is either suffering intolerable pain or has a life that is unacceptably burdensome because the illness has to be treated in ways that lead to his being unacceptably dependent on others or on life support.

4. He has an enduring, voluntary and competent wish to die or has expressed a wish to die in the event that conditions 1-3 are satisfied.

Inducing, not preventing

One might consider that permanently withdrawing nutrition from someone in a semi-vegetative state is an active form of euthanasia. It's not merely foreseeing that death will ensue, but actually intending the death. It is not simply not preventing death, but actually inducing it. The loss of brain activity did not kill Terri; electrolyte and nutrient imbalances as a consequence of starvation did.

When Pope John Paul II elected not to be brought to the hospital anymore and to withhold extraordinary medical interventions, he was not encouraging euthanasia because usual or customary treatment was still continued.

In many instances though, the distinction between ordinary and extraordinary measures, terminal and nonterminal illnesses, or mental competence and incompetence of the patient become ambiguous. This complicates the issues on the morality and legality of euthanasia. This is when deciding not to resuscitate a patient or to pull the plug on the respirator can prick a doctor's conscience for a long, long time.

FROM LEFT are IABC Philippines' Bong Osorio, MSD's Carole Lopez, Christine Liwanag and Lilet Potenciano and IABC Philippines' Cosette Romero.

MSD bags 2 Gold Quill awards

PHARMACEUTICAL company Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) won two Gold Quill Awards during the recent 2005 Gold Quill Awards Philippines of the prestigious International Association of Business Communicators.

The annual awards honor the achievements of Philippine-based professional communicators.

MSD received a Gold Quill award in the Media Relations and the Marketing Communications categories.

In marketing communications, MSD was cited for its innovative ProHair advocacy program, a campaign undertaken in cooperation with the Philippine Dermatological Society.

The program intends to increase public awareness on male pattern hair loss as a medical condition and encourages those suffering from this condition to consult qualified dermatologists.

Boehringer Ingelheim opens Vienna plant

VIENNA, Austria—The new biopharmaceutical production plant of Boehringer Ingelheim for manufacturing therapeutically active proteins, plasmid DNA and single chain antibodies was inaugurated earlier this week.

The plant, along with the corporation's Research and Development Center for drug discovery in oncology, now enables the company to use two 6,000-liter fermenters for biopharmaceutical production.

Expansion

More than 80 million euro was spent for the expansion, representing the largest single investment for its Austrian subsidiary and creating 200 new high positions for trained staff in Austria. The second production plant for manufacturing innovative biopharmaceuticals greatly strengthens the place of Boehringer Ingelheim in the field.

Said Dr. Hans-Jürgen Leuchs, member of the board of managing directors and head of corporate board divisions for biopharmaceuticals operations at Boehringer Ingelheim: "All our business segments successfully developed in their markets in 2004. The biopharmaceutical business achieved the highest growth rate, increasing net sales by 40 percent. In the last five years, sales in this area more than tripled from 127 million euro in 1999 to 392 million euro in 2004."

Biotech sites

With two biotech sites in Biberach, Germany and Vienna, Boehringer Ingelheim is now one of the leading companies producing biopharmaceuticals from mammalian cell culture, native and recombinant microorganism and yeast.

"Our two biopharmaceutical manufacturing sites are of strategic importance for Boehringer Ingelheim's worldwide bio-business," said Prof. Rolf G. Werner, director corporate division biopharmaceuticals at Boehringer Ingelheim International. "These allow us to provide the entire biotechnical process chain in early development and large-scale commercial manufacturing."

The process covers genetic engineering, formulation and downstream processing to filling in and finishing state-of-the-art application systems as well as global registration and marketing of biopharmaceutials. "You might call it a 'one-stop-shop' for our customers," Werner said. "Or as we like to put it, we cooperate with our partners from mind to market."

Pioneer in modern biotech

For more than 25 years, Boehringer Ingelheim has been a pioneer in the field of modern biotechnology and became the leading biotech company in Europe in 1998. Projects from its research centers as well as from key clients are being developed and scaled up at both biopharmaceutical production plants.

The firm provides contract manufacturing services for leading biotechnology companies, mainly in the United States, Canada, Japan and Europe. It has stepped up the development and production of its own biotechnical products and provided new medicines.

The Boehringer Ingelheim group is one of the world's 20 leading pharmaceutical companies. Headquartered in Ingelheim, Germany, it operates globally with 144 affiliates in 45 countries and nearly 36,000 employees. Since it was founded in 1885, the family-owned company has been committed to researching, developing, manufacturing and marketing novel products of high therapeutic value for human and veterinary medicine.

2-year fellowship program in psychiatry at St. Luke's

THE INSTITUTE of Neurosciences, Section of Psychiatry of St. Luke's Medical Center has an opening for two psychiatrists for a two-year fellowship program in consultation-liaison psychiatry.

Interested applicants must have completed their residency training in a PPA-accredited program. They must fill up an application form and submit a curriculum vitae along with two letters of recommendation, one of which must come from their residency training officer. For details call Catherine Yolores at 723-0101 extension 4303.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC MEETING

Debt relief deal not expected at IMF, WB talks

WASHINGTON—World finance chiefs are unlikely to agree on ways of writing off the debts of poor nations at the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank this weekend, officials said on Thursday.

Forgiving the debt poor countries owe lenders like the IMF and World Bank has been high on the agenda of global economic meetings since last year, amid pressure by development groups who argue the debt stifles growth and poverty reduction.

But on the eve of spring meetings in Washington, development leaders and groups agree a deal is more likely to be unveiled at a Group of Eight leaders' summit in June, where debt relief and increased aid to Africa will be center stage.

"We are likely to see it emerge over the coming few months and that the more likely thing is that this is a head-of-state announcement rather than a finance ministers' announcement," World Bank president James Wolfensohn told a news conference.

"My guess is that you will get some signals from these meetings but that the actual announcements are likely to be later," he added.

Government and IMF officials have said there is no single proposal of debt relief under discussion at the meetings and sides are still trying to narrow their differences.

Under consideration are proposals by the United States, Britain, France and Germany that include increasing grant aid over loans, the establishments of an international finance facility that would double aid for the poor countries, and the sale of IMF gold.

The United States, the largest single shareholder of both the IMF and World Bank, has rejected the British proposal for the finance facility and gold sales.

It has argued that its plan would permanently wipe off the debts with grant handouts—versus decades of loans—through the World Bank's International Development Association, the lender's lowest-cost lending arm.

But critics say the US plan would weaken the bank's ability to lend to poor countries.

IMF managing director Rodrigo Rato said on Thursday that if shareholders decide to use some of the IMF gold stocks, it would be better to sell bullion than revalue it on its balance sheet.

But he said great care should be taken not to disrupt bullion markets and suggested the IMF join the voluntary central bank agreement, under which they say in advance how much gold they will sell and over what period of time.

"If the board would take that decision, it should be taken technically by selling gold in the market, not by reviewing the value of the gold in our balance sheet," he told a news conference.

"Secondly, to do that without disrupting the market—that is, to do that being part, formally or informally, of the central banks agreement for selling gold," he said.

But Rato stressed that the decision to sell gold belonged to the IMF's board of member governments. Selling the gold would require an 85 percent majority backing on the board.

"At the end of the day all of the proposals have their trade-offs ..., but some of their aspects are feasible," Rato said. "The question is for governments to make a decision." *Reuters*

IMF urges Europe to lift economy

WASHINGTON—Europe needs to raise its economic growth potential, International Monetary Fund chief Rodrigo Rato said on Thursday.

Speaking ahead of weekend meetings of the IMF and the World Bank, he said sluggish growth in the dozen-member euro zone was a problem, particularly as the bloc's potential growth rate appeared to be below 2 percent.

"The lack of progress in growth in Europe is certainly an issue," he told a press conference a day after the IMF cut its 2005 growth forecast for the euro zone to 1.6 percent from 2.2 percent.

"The European governments should face the fact they need to make (their) growth potential bigger."

Rato earlier said while the environment for the global economy remained "benign," high oil prices had increased the downside risks.

He also urged Europe to face up to the challenge posed by its aging population, which is putting an increasing strain on public finances: "Budgets have to leave room of maneuver to face the challenge."

Asked to comment on economic developments in some of the European Union's largest economies, he said Britain should observe its self-imposed fiscal rules, which call for borrowing to be deployed only to finance investment over the economic cycle.

Italy was implementing the right sort of economic reforms but had more work to do.

"The Italian economy needs to go further in some structural reforms, including business climate, competition, and employment ratio," Rato said.

"We see also that a reduction in taxes can certainly play a role in stimulating investment and labor supply but those tax cuts will have little impact unless they are seen as being sustainable. In that respect budgetary policy becomes a key issue in Italy."

The European Commission earlier this week said it might by June declare Rome in breach of the EU's deficit ceiling of 3 percent of gross domestic product. *Reuters*

OFW . . .

From page B1

action costs in the Philippines, despite being the third biggest recipient of migrant remittances next to Mexico and India, averaged at about 13.5 percent, about the same level as Tunisia, Sri Lanka and Serbia and Montenegro.

The Philippines has one of the highest transaction costs, next to Bangladesh (16 percent), Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina (15 percent) and Morroco (14 percent).

"This may reflect the intensity of competition among remittance service providers, or the ability of such providers to spread fixed infrastructure costs over a larger volume of customers," the study said.

The study said further reductions in transaction costs, even assuming no change in the volume of remittances sent, would automatically lead to increases in inflows for developing countries.

"They could also encourage a shift in remittances away from informal, cash-based channels and toward formal channels.

Gov't . . .

From page B1

view that part of the sale proceeds would also be used to fund more exploration activities that would aid the country in reaching its goal of reaching a 60-percent energy self-sufficiency level by 2010.

"This will allow us to have funds to increase and sustain an honest-to-goodness exploration program, which could lead to discoveries of new oil and gas finds in the country," he said.

While not indicating exactly how much PNOC-EC expected to fetch from the sale of its 4.9-percent stake in the natural gas project, he said the amount would definitely be "significantly better than the price we bought it for."

It cost PNOC-EC roughly $175 million to buy its 10-percent stake in 1999, so Mañalac said the sale of its 4.9-percent share now should yield somewhere within the vicinity of $100 million or even higher.

QUICK
4月15日
15:26
国内指標
日経平均 11370.69
日経平均先物 11320
IX 1150.67
1147.00
1524.09
1944.71
8四半期連続で
明治乳 58

A BUSINESSMAN looks at prices chart in downtown Tokyo. Japanese share prices dropped 192.48 points to close at 11,370.69 following heavy losses on Wall Street overnight and after results of tech giants IBM, Sun Microsystems and South Korea's Samsung Electronics came in weaker-than-expected. AFP

SAP rejects merger talks with Oracle

PALO ALTO—SAP AG, Europe's biggest software company, on Thursday said it is taking market share away from rival Oracle Corp. in the much sought after US business software market and rejected speculation it was considering a merger with Oracle.

"We are gaining market share," said SAP chief executive Henning Kagermann, referring to Oracle, which is the world's biggest database maker but the top rival to market leader SAP in the area of software applications that automate business processes like payroll and customer relations.

"Believe me, it is going up," said Kagermann about SAP's market share. He said more details of SAP's performance would follow when SAP reports its first quarter earnings next Thursday.

Kagermann, along with other top SAP executives, met with reporters at the company's California offices, where they have been talking to customers, venture capitalists and employees.

The US business software market—where Oracle says it dominates in software applications—is SAP's fastest-growing market and also brings in about one-third of the Walldorf, Germany-based company's total revenue.

Kagermann also said SAP was neither in merger talks with Oracle nor considering such a deal.

In a recent interview with German business weekly Wirtschaftswoche, Kagermann said he would listen if Oracle chief executive Larry Ellison called to suggest a merger.

On Thursday he firmly said that as CEO it was his duty to shareholders to take any phone call related to mergers.

Determining whether SAP or Oracle holds the top spot in the US business software market is difficult because each company uses different metrics to account for software deals, said Bruce Richardson, an analyst at industry group AMR Research.

Kagermann, a physicist and mathematician who joined SAP in 1982, said SAP was still on the outlook for acquisitions to fill holes in the company's product portfolio, which targets around 25 different industries ranging from banking to oil and gas.

SAP, which has bought 13 relatively small software makers since 2001, attempted to buy small US retail maker Retek Inc. in March.

SAP, however, was outbid by Oracle, which purchased the company for around $670 million.

"We have indicated where our portfolio is not complete," said Kagermann, citing industry segments—sometimes called verticals—like financial services and the public sector.

Kagermann said SAP had no desire to buy embattled software maker Siebel Systems Inc., which ousted its CEO on Wednesday because of the company's underperformance.

SAP also said on Thursday that it had no plans to pre-announce its first-quarter earnings and said market rumors that it was about to do so were wrong. *Reuters*

Techs lead Asia selloff on IBM blues

SINGAPORE—Tokyo shares slid 1.7 percent on Friday, leading most Asian share markets sharply lower after Wall Street blue chips fell to 5 1/2-month lows and top computer maker IBM unveiled disappointing earnings.

The Nikkei extended its fall into a fifth session, led lower by a 2.6-percent slide in Tokyo Electron Ltd. and a 2.4-percent fall in Sony Corp..

"Another day of falls in New York is discouraging and banks and others are weighed down by stop-loss selling from individual investors trading on margin," said Katsuhiko Kodama, head of the equities section at Toyo Securities.

"The news from IBM means we shouldn't expect sentiment to get better in New York later," he said.

IBM, the world's largest computer company, fell more than 5 percent in after-hours trade after reporting that pockets of global economic weakness had pushed its quarterly results below expectations.

Shares in Samsung Electronics had fallen 1.5 percent by 10 a.m. yesterday after the company posted a 52-percent drop in quarterly profit, slightly worse than consensus forecasts.

South Korean stocks lost 0.87 percent. At one point the market was down 1.1 percent at its lowest intraday level in over two months. MSCI's index of non-Japan share markets was 1.2 percent lower.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 125.18 points or 1.2 percent to finish at 10,278.75. The Nasdaq Composite Index fell 1.4 percent to 1,946.71.

The dollar, which has held up well despite worrying retail sales and trade figures this week, held firm in Tokyo.

"You can't sell the dollar now. It's just not going down," said Mitsuo Imaizumi, deputy general manager of the forex department at Daiwa Securities SMBC.

The euro stood at $1.2800, hardly budging from late US levels on Thursday and off a two-month low of $1.2766. The dollar was also little changed at 108.25 yen. It touched a five-month peak of 108.90 yen last week.

NYMEX crude for May delivery was trading at $51.26 a barrel, 13 cents or 0.25 percent higher.

Share markets across Asia fell, led by Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index and Australia's S&P ASX 200, which were both off about one percent.

Chinese shares were heavy losers in Hong Kong, with Lenovo Group sinking nearly 3 percent. China's biggest computer maker is in a deal to buy IBM's PC business.

Persistent and pronounced weakness in world metals prices hammered resource shares in Australia for a second day. BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto were off 3.1 and 1.9 percent respectively.

Taiwan's weighted index tumbled to its lowest since late December. Top techs TSMC and UMC were 0.4 and 0.8 percent lower, but the index's biggest losers were banks and financials.

Singapore's Straits Times Index fell 0.6 percent. *Reuters*

China's car makers ready to take on world?

SHANGHAI—After decades of riding global car makers' coat-tails and churning out clunky cars few wanted, upstart Chinese firms are flexing their muscles, designing sedans that threaten to engulf world markets.

Now, the likes of General Motors Corp. and Toyota Motor Corp. are getting increasingly nervous about the country's vaunted export might, afraid that automotive history—a la Japan and South Korea—might repeat itself.

Analysts and industry executives call for calm.

The Chinese must first deal with poor-quality perceptions—as even Nissan Motor Co. once had to—the higher cost of making cars there, endemic intellectual property theft and a serious lack of design savvy, they say.

"I'm not sure whether it will take 10, 20 or 30 years, but it's entirely possible that in future we will see Chinese-badged cars being driven on the streets of Japan," said Katsumi Nakamura, president of Nissan's Chinese venture.

Executives convening at next week's Shanghai auto show can expect to be greeted by a flurry of activity from China's car makers: unveiling plans to make own-branded products, pushing cars onto a saturated world market, marketing blitzes.

Mainland car makers and foreign partners such as market leader Volkswagen AG have unveiled plans to spend more than $15 billion tripling capacity to over seven million cars by 2008, sparking fears of a glut.

If China fails to become the world's second-biggest car market by 2010, as McKinsey & Co. predicts, the country could suddenly find itself saddled with millions of unsold cars.

The idea of Geely or Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp, China's top car maker, mimicking Toyota's or Hyundai Motor Co.'s success is keeping industry chiefs up at night.

A market downturn is fueling fears. After nearly doubling in 2003, car sales growth braked to just 15 percent in 2004 and should grow at an even slower pace in 2005.

At the forefront of the burgeoning export push are two companies—Geely, based in the eastern private enterprise hotbed of Zhejiang, and Chery Automobile Co., accused by GM of copying one of its cars—a charge it denied.

Li Shufu, Geely's ever-ebullient chairman, wants to sell two-thirds of output overseas, though he is coy on when that could happen. Geely hopes to produce 650,000 cars a year by 2007.

China is a sapling where cars are concerned: the world's seventh-largest economy exported fewer than 50,000 cars in 2004, mainly to the Middle East and Africa. Now the focus is shifting to the United States, the world's largest auto market.

Toyota, now the world's second-largest car maker, got off to a troubled start in the United States in the 1960s, and the Koreans' offerings were widely ridiculed in the 1980s.

"If 10 years ago you asked whether Toyota was going to be as successful in the US as it is today, many people would have been skeptical," said Clive Saunderson, an Ernst & Young partner.

Others point out a lack of research and development skills.

Finally, persuading Europeans and Americans to buy cars made in China, a country known more for shoes, textiles and cheap electronics that have flooded Western markets in recent years, could require a leap of faith.

"If we're just talking about whether (the Chinese) will be able to build vehicles that can transport people, they'll go a long way. But when it comes to building up a brand, it's going to take a long time." *Reuters*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071 Malrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

PERSONAL

ACCOUNTANT

NEED EXTERNAL AUDITOR? 456-1967 • 0918-5156208 Jojo

MASSAGE

02-3233269 BEST BOYS

AKHIN COMBNTION 8347357

Alternative Therapy 8327363

AROMATHERAPHY 752-0018

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR (0921)5364194

BEAUTIE'S MASSAGE
MLA:8657973 CEBU: (032) 2562187

BOY'S MASSAGE
MLA:4587993 CEBU: (032) 2593809

Candy 8971506;09212085309

HOLLYWOOD 456-0799

HUMANTOUCH 927-4137

MALE MASSAGE
374-8480

MASSAGE 8547144 VICTOR

★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★
11A Kamias QC 4350978

RELAXING MASSAGE 8978214

RICHARD MALE MASSEURS 7413399 (0918)4872191

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

ULTIMUS 0916-8810645
1143-I Del Monte QC 4107326

REFLEXOLOGY

CHRIS or BOBBIE 8548556

★ Feels Good 4127758 ★

I-spa Citland 9 Mkt 8160151

Jojo HMS 0920-8635511

HOUSEHOLD

TRUSTED MAID, YAYA 5781796

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAID & YAYA 4386920

All arnd Maid Yaya 4377086

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

AVAILABLE:MAIDS/DRIVERS FOR FOREIGN & FIL. CLIENTS WELL TRAINED # 8067402

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

Best Maid Yaya Driver 421-4652

EXP MAIDS w/ NBI 4398468

GOOD MAIDS w/NBI 4376246

Hardworking Maids 421-3828

Help Agency 5328376 • 5322971

NEED MAIDS 09155544777 / 4325125

BEST MAIDS 8294261

Trusted Maid Yaya 5343088

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206704 4540520

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

BANGKAL [illegible] 4586547

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

Mary Cris Complex

Executive Homes
PHASE 5
Malagasang 2G, Imus, Cavite

COME & JOIN US AT OUR OPEN HOUSE ON APRIL 16 & 17 at 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM!

ONLY P5000 TO RESERVE!

FRANCE
Dining Room
Living Room
Bedroom
AUSTRIA
Living Room
MARY CRIS COMPLEX
VICINITY MAP

FRANCE
REGULAR UNIT
Lot Area : 72 sq m.
Total Improved Area : 103.60 sq m.

END UNIT
Lot Area : 96 sq m
Total Improved Area : 103.60 sq m.

Monthly Installment for as low as P 7,550.00 thru Pag-IBIG Financing & available other financing schemes to suit your budget!*

- Functional layout!
- Prefabricated kitchen counters & laminated counter cabinets!
- Elegant ceramic floor tiles!
- Carport & pocket garden!
- Individual perimeter fence & gate!

QUALITY & EXCELLENCE

AUSTRIA
REGULAR UNIT
Lot Area : 72 sq m.
Total Improved Area : 65 sq.m.

END UNIT
Lot Area : 96 sq m.
Total Improved Area : 67.70 sq.m.

Only 10% Downpayment to move In!*

For details, please call:
Engr. Grace @ Tel # 046 3977/ 046-3956
E-mail durawood@edsamail.com.ph
* Terms and Conditions apply

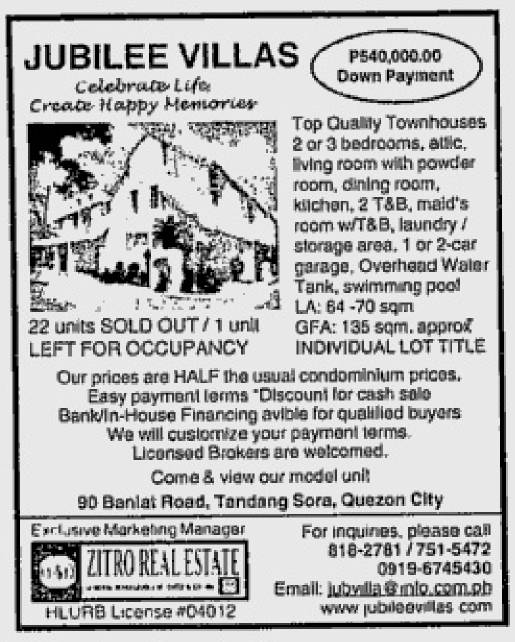
Owner Developer
Durawood Construction & Lumber Supply Inc.
Duravilla Realty & Development Corp.

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY



JUBILEE VILLAS
Celebrate Life
Create Happy Memories

P540,000.00 Down Payment

Top Quality Townhouses 2 or 3 bedrooms, attic, living room with powder room, dining room, kitchen, 2 T&B, maid's room w/T&B, laundry / storage area, 1 or 2-car garage, Overhead Water Tank, swimming pool
LA: 64 -70 sqm
GFA: 135 sqm. approx
INDIVIDUAL LOT TITLE

22 units SOLD OUT / 1 unit LEFT FOR OCCUPANCY

Our prices are HALF the usual condominium prices.
Easy payment terms *Discount for cash sale
Bank/In-House Financing avlble for qualified buyers
We will customize your payment terms.
Licensed Brokers are welcomed.
Come & view our model unit
90 Banlat Road, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Exclusive Marketing Manager
ZITRO REAL ESTATE
HLURB License #04012

For inquiries, please call
818-2781 / 751-5472
0919-6745430
Email: jubvilla@mlo.com.ph
www.jubileevillas.com

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

BelAir2 510m² P18M
0927-5226353 5318463 7213127

URGENT SALE!
3storey Res/School Bldg. on 753sqm lot at 2094 E. Pascua Makati City (near Sta. Ana Racing Club). Ideal for Res/ Business/Bank site. Asking price P30,000/sqm. Call Mina Tels. 813-3459/813-3496 Aries522603 @yahoo.com Brokers welcome

MANILA

KANLAON, Sta Mesa Hts nr Lourdes School 724-2629 435-2186 ; 7250535

SAN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/4tb/1-2grge P3.860M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

MANDALUYONG House &Lot; LA 300SQM FA 240SQM 5 Bedrooms; 1 den; 1 maid's room; 4 toilets / baths; 2-car garage. CALL CYNTHIA 632-4895

MARIKINA

2.4M New 4BR3TB 9422154

Bnew com/res 3br 2.8M 9487112

PARANAQUE

BNew LA106m² FA155m² ExTerm 3br 2tb 2CGrg Nawasa 2.95M 0917 [illegible] 824 [illegible] DBO

HOUSE & LOT

PARANAQUE

Verdant T-house Hse & Lot No DP 20T/mo 0927 2805153

PASIG

178m² 3tb 4br w/Garage 641-6726 Cell# 09273044076 P8M Sumilang Pasig- Marie

QUEZON CITY

300sqm LOT P3.5M PARKWAY VILL ROOSEVELT EDSA Q.C. TEL#733-7707/69

ACROPOLIS P20M 2STY W/ BASEMENT SALE W/1 YR LEASE OTHER HOUSES AVAILABLE T • 8894796;6475 6337601-03

CUBAO 300m² 2hses 9122194

KAMUNING BNEW 3STY THSE 724-2629/412-7311

NR ARANETA CENTER/Makro (1)two stry hse, 2 bungalow LA302m² 0917-7499447

PROJ.4 BNEW NR LRT P3.8M 724-2629/412-7311

RETIRO ST. Highly Coml 724-2629/435-2186

•SIKATUNA Vil #81 Mahiyain• 9210255; 9219967; 9209022

SMH 264sq.m. 3 stry-12M NEG. w/ res/ bodega/off-7318973

Subd. H/L 300m² 3BR Den, Marikina nr. Horshoe [illegible] 721 7127

Your Dream Condo, for as low as P5,303/mo.*

HURRY FEW UNITS LEFT! EACH UNIT STILL VAT-FREE!

PEARL ST., COMMONWEALTH AVE.

812-PPHC (7742) • 0917-812-PPHC (7742) • 0922-812-PPHC (7742)

PHINMA Property Holdings Corp
City Living Made Easy.

LEAD GRP LHS CONCORDE REALTY 419-9400
WELCOME REALTY 413-3313 • BOOMLAND REALTY 417-9659
REACH OUT 983-1894 • FORTE REALTY 428-0372

HOUSE & LOT

SAN JUAN

GREENHILLS San Juan Com'l 724-2629/435-2186

H/L 4Sty P3.5M • 631-3296

MANDALUYONG NR SHAW Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm/1-2grge P3.655M up 8903461

BULACAN

1800/mo-20yrs Tel 9372688

CAVITE

CAVITE LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK
Maguyam Rd., Carmona, Cavite
Individual Titles are Ready
Phase I & Phase II Fully developed with Existing Locators
Phase III - Pre-selling
Owner/Developer
CATHAY LAND, INC.
634-2956 • 636-0111 TO 14

LAGUNA

3400/mo 25yrs Tel 5208410

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

RENT TO OWN!
CONDO nr. Fort & Makati
2-4BR Fully Secured
16K monthly & 50K DP
Anne • (0920) 236-0929

Hampstons Place Frnt of Hatch Asia Global City 0917-5213838

MAKATI CONDO FOR SALE 410-8395 / 0919-8504468

MANANSALA ROCKWELL BNEW 58m² 1br Pkg 6.7M 910-0264 0921-5833028 • 0922-3707590

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Bargain at Zonal Values!
Citibank ofc 284m² P18M
Alpha Salcedo 63m² P4.7M
3Salcedo 190m² 3BRS P16M
Pet Plans Plans 263m² P11M
LPL Manor 44m² P2.6M
Bonaventure 65m² P2.6M
Citiland 8 24m² stud P1.2M
Harmony Homes 34m² near
LasalleTaft prg P1.2M
Call Tell 8509507
Pacific Place 100m² P4.7M

RENT 2 OWN Condo Resort! 2BR P12T RFO 0928-2473987

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

Rush Sale Wack² Condo 3br w/Prkg Nice View 0918-4762278

PARANAQUE

Bnew Multinat'l
P2.2M Single Det 15%DP
9-12mos 0%interst 932-1218

PASIG

VV5 3BR 3TB Well Kept P5.8M 746-0237 / 0917-8125791

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Condo 1.5M 9126976

EASTWOOD 3BR 3TB 4M
AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY
Panoramic View Pool 77m²
0918-4845443

Eastwood City 0917-5213838

Twnhse @ Hobart Homes QC near UP LA95sqm FA150sqm 2storey 3BR + 3TB maids rm w /TB 9511470/0918-9009060

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

BAYVIEW
INTERNATIONAL TOWERS

JUST A 10 MINUTE DRIVE TO THE AIRPORT!!!

PROMO
30,000/sq.m.
3Bedroom
165.5sq.m.
w/ 2 parking slots
P 4.9M

- Brand new units now ready for occupancy!
- 1 Bedroom unit with T&B 70.50 sqm. including 1 parking slot
- 23% downpayment with a monthly amortization as low as P35,838 per month
- 3BR, 4BR Penthouse units from 147.50 sqm. & up
- Clubhouse, gym, playroom
- Swimming pool with Jacuzzi
- Maids room w/ T&B
- Laundry / Service area.

HURRY FEW UNITS LEFT!!!

COME & VISIT OUR MODEL UNITS
Open daily
8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

OMNI-ORIENT MARKETING NETWORK, INC.
A subsidiary of Federal Land, Inc.
855-8239
855-8118

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

VALENCIA HILLS
BRAND NEW STUDIO 2&3BR
ACCESSIBLE TO ICA, XAVIER
OTHER SCHOOLS & HOSPITALS
•AVAIL OF OUR APRIL PROMO•
•FREE ADDT'L PARKING FOR 3BR CASH BUYERS
•SPECIAL CUT-OFF PRICE ON SELECTED UNITS ONLY
CALL: VILMA LIMUCO
7258808, 7266451

SAN JUAN

Beautiful Penthse 255m² + Park + R'deck 3BR 4TB Exclnt loc. GHills Avail. for Urgent Sale P13M Call 2977534

MANDALUYONG NR SHAW BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm/1-2grge P3.655M up 8903461

LOT

MAKATI

Hampton Place @ D'Fort
Own Ur Home @ Direct Cost
40% Less • 700-2172 Tess

MANDALUYONG

300m² w/imprvmnt P6.5M Payapa St nr Mun. 0927-5226353

PARANAQUE

BF nr. Elizalde 334m² 8,500T/m² 0917-6267797, 824-9073 DBO

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS COR LOT 340m² P40T/m² 8896475;4796

RUSH PRIME LOT
301m² PROJECT 8
3.5M Call 09175034529

SAN JUAN

1000m² Ver St. San Juan nr Aquinas Sch 0927-5226353

CAVITE

4 BUILD&SELL DEVELOPERS ★Town&Country nr. LaSalle 5 adjacent LOTS @ P1.29M ★Garden Grove nr. Orchard 11 adjacent LOTS @ P2.19M Ben 531-2021, 0922-8881918

Metrogate Ph2 Dasma 120m² @P3,200 09178439799;9136105

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

1128 ANTIPOLO ST 380 SQM 8902561/8902894

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MANILA

EXCEL LOC. 2227 TAFT AVE GROUND FLR 260Sq. Meters NEAR DLSU 524-2411 / (0916)2282553

PARANAQUE

7553 Sycamore St. Marcelo Green Vill 2sty 4BR 4TB maids&drvrs rm w/ T&B 2car grge 09189241992 Nancy

BRAND NEW DUPLEX
MARIMAR NEAR SM-BICUTAN 3BR 2TB 2CG 2/F TERRACE H2O OK SKYWAY ENTR/EXIT AVAIL 4/ 16 Tel: 823-2885

MULTI VILL 4 RENT 2T&B 3 BDRMS W/GRGE & TERACE CALL 912-7898 AVAIL. JUN

BULACAN

1BR/TB P5500/mo Sta Maria Lyn M 8909718;09193384431

LAGUNA

3BR 2TB 2 CAR GARAGE W/TEL FURNISHED CANLUBANG LAG. CALL 09214327553

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2br Fur Cntr Pkg 8447524

MAKATI AVE 10T Studio F/F 35m² No Dues Call 457-8041

Prime Twr 1BR 0921-7985148

MANILA

BAYBRIDGE HOME NR NAGTAHAN BLK2 LOT2 7361925

MANDALUYONG

Semi Condo 13T 4500 6T Mand. City T#5338536

PARANAQUE

Chateau Elysee Bicutan 2BR nr SM&Aport 12T 09178987644

QUEZON CITY

NICE CONDO: 3BR, 3TB Maids Room w/TB, Secured 913-7267 • 913-7270 -Roy

STUDIO TYPE NR V.LUNA HOSP 4352188/09194295109

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

34 YALE CUBAO 8310449

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

TT scrnd Fema Rd Proj8- 9262180

Apartment For Rent Visayas Ave. 928-9104

BNEW studio PROJ.2 4342604 / 0919-2876641

Cub nr Stela Maris 9123902

• HIMLAYANG PILIPINO •
Mausoleum Capacity 12full Interments 14bone Interment 1.7M neg Call 426-4262

New 3BR (6Units) P15th/mo. 2mos.deposit ;1mo. advance #11 Ermin Garcia bet E. Rodguez & Kamuning 426-4252

Nr Sm City Edsa 0919-5537648

MAKATI

1 & 2 BRMS W/ GARAGE STRONG WATER 8902561/8902894

GOOD 2BR APART GRGE STRNG WATER (0915)3202799

MANILA

Crisostomo St. 6459302

MANDALUYONG

2 Units-Hiway Hills 8212091

32 Bulalakaw St. back Mun. Hall Call 5342838/6585656

PASAY

PASAY CITY EXECUTIVE APT FOR RENT NEAR ROXAS BLVD & BUENDIA 1BR W/T&B CARPORT MAID'S ROOM SEMIFURNISHED W /TEL 20T/MO. 7412382 (0917)98150926

TWO STOREY BLDG LAKAS NG BAYAN ST PASAY CITY 5239517

SAN JUAN

9 J. BUSTAQUID ALG N. DOMINGO T 8250342 & 8202481

★A.LUNA ST 2story spacious P9T/mo good loc'n 6461603

FOR LEASE

FOR LEASE SUNDUAN REST. NEAR THE INT'L AIRPORT N.AQUINO AVE . P'QUE CITY CALL NET/ARIS TEL#829-6696; 829-9164

LOTS 500 TO 5000SQM WAREHOUSES & OFFICES FOR LEASE NEAR THE INT'L AIRPORT IRASAN COMPLEX, N.AQUINO AVE. P'QUE CITY CALL NET OR ARIS TEL#8296696 829-9164

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

500sqshp Cubao 7257342 30T

ROOM & BOARD

BF P'QUE 8257524 P200!!

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

P120 only! Cool 711-8679
WINDSOR INN, Maceda St
nr 7-11 Dimasalang Mla

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974097

BUSINESS RENTAL

BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA50 m² (res) 75&110m² (Ideal for SPA, GYM) 9289541 / 7361925

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINESS . DOCTOR 524-3197

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

COMMERCIAL

Ofc @ 1.2M or 10K/mo 631-3296

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

MAKATI

Makati Manila RFO CONDO Sale / Rent 09176266516

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

'03 Civic VTi A/T 650K Neg. 8TKms Lt.Blue 0922-8323537 Ivy

'93 ESi Red M/T P180T Neg. Call or Txt 0927-7320154

MITSUBISHI

'05 ADVENTURE P95T D/P OR P10,668 MOS. CALL 0917-6206816

97 EX 15mags, wood Panel, sounds set-up 0920-9616790

'99 BESTA 155T 9326638

NISSAN

01 Frontier 4x2 55Tkm M/T 0919-8707359 • 0919-3552515

TOYOTA

80 DX 38T 0927-4550697

98'Taxi w/LN 09189355881

★05Prado NoDP 09173908413

VAN/PICK-UP

2001 Strada, fully loaded, TV, 12cd changer, camper shell w /AC and Japanese Seat, bull bar, ladder, registered /comprehensive insurance. 725T Call 0920-9003033 •09189422422

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Safari Trooper Terrano Surf Delica Largo Town Lite-Hi Ace Fargo Serena estima Elf Canter etc Call 9120647;09178342020

MOTORCYCLE

JAWA 350cc Cychos
Made Euro P100,000
925-8982 ;09205910717

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

SAVE GAS NOW!
•Khaos Turbo Charger•
20-50% Savings 426-7910

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Van Buses Coaster 0910-4541788 • 534-4003

CAR (M/T A/T) VAN (8-15P) T 9386198 4270344

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

STAREX'05 MB100 9483535

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

RENT-A-VAN 6424405

TOYCO CARS
Udrive W/driver, All kinds: Cars, Vans, SUV • Mla.(02) 800-6595 802-3021 • Cebu (032) 345-1802

ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE • STAREX
L300 • CRV • REVO
HONDA • VIOS • ALTIS • LYNX • CRLA
MLA : 536-0822 • 303-0789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CAR [illegible] SANGLA TEL 899-021[illegible]

CAR LOAN

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 6567685

2% w/out taking car 5315577

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

26T New Compl Sr Imptd 7767507

Sale/Rental/Service 8014494

BUY/SELL

PRUDENTIAL PLANS 7800106

HOME APPLIANCE

JUST CALL WE DELIVER 2HP CARRIER P9T 1.5H.P. P7T 1 HP P6T 3TON PACKAGE 04 CARRIER ALINAIRE KOPPEL P30T 5TON P45 T-921-9465

GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE
768 King's Road St., Brgy. Highway Hills Mandaluyong City
Cell # 0917-5335925

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Mesolipo Dissolve Products Manila/Davao 0921-3147611

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

ASZOO
DOG TRAINING 455-6212

CUTE LHASAS P8.5/papr 8906374

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

PRINTING EQUIPMENT

BRITISH MEIHLE V-50 A-1 COND. P55T TEL. 8976906

WANTED TO BUY

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
OtherWATCHES BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

P2,000 lang, Selling Biznlz Jun 438-3309/0920-91129210

GREENPEACE

Greenpeace is the world's leading environmental campaigning organisation, using non-violent action to confront global problems and force through solutions.

Political Advisor
for East & South East Asia

Provide the strategic direction for delivering Greenpeace's environmental campaigns across the Asian Region.

With 3+ years experience and proven expertise in high level political negotiation, policy development you could make a huge impact on the effective delivery of our campaigns in East & South East Asia. You will be **BASED IN ASIA, ideally Bangkok**, and travel frequently.

As well as a strong belief in our aims and an extensive knowledge of Asia, this requires an established network of international, political and media contacts, plus the strength of character, intellect, strategic ability and drive to make things happen. Excellent communication skills are essential, including fluency in English and at least one other language.

Toxics Campaigner
based in Asia also required

For a job description and competency profile for either post search JOBS on the Greenpeace International website:

http://www.greenpeace.org/international_en/jobs

Please send your application, consisting of a covering letter stating how you meet the profile, with your cv to Charlotte Beal, Human Resources at the following email address

Int.recruitment@int.greenpeace.org

Application deadline: 2 May 2005

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE
REFER, TRUCK
WALK-IN CHILLER/FREEZER
DOUGH SHEETER
SPIRAL MIXER
AND OTHER RESTAURANT EQPT.
CALL: 531-0633 (IMELDA)

PETS

PCCI
338th PCCI & 339th PCCI
ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
RIVERBANKS CENTER
MARIKINA CITY
APRIL 16 & 17, 2005
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
Mr. MAURICE BAKER
(S Africa)
Mrs. SHIELA BAKER
(S Africa)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
SHOW SCHEDULE
SATURDAY
April 16, 2005
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration and Judging of Sporting Group & Terrier Group
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Hound Group/ Toy Group
SUNDAY
April 17, 2005
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration and Judging of Non-Sporting Group & Herding Group
12:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Working Group
CORPORATE SPONSORS:
Pedigree
Science Diet

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

L88EDC has TRANSFORMED & CHANGED the lives of many professionals into GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURS. www.L88edc.com

RTW Consign 09167940002

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

CY LOPEZ
PAWNSHOP INC.
CAEG Bldg. #7611 Dela Rosa St. Makati City #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City #15 Gen. Santos Ave. lower Bicutan Taguig Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on APRIL 23, 2005 at 9:00am including all items pawned up to NOVEMBER 2004. - V. Zamora Jr. lic. Auctioneer.
(PDI - APRIL 16, 2005)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that Stock Cert. No. 46077 issued by Hi-Cement Corp. for 5,000 shares of Mr. John Chan has been reported lost. If no contest received new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-April 2, 9 & 16, 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the GSIS HOUSING LOAN application of the late RITCHIE M. DUQUE with account no. HMOD210017 housing address at Blk.36 lot 4, Magnolia Street, Modesta Village II San Mateo Rizal was extrajudicially settled by her heirs by means of Public Document executed on March 30, 2005 and ratified before Atty. Isidro V. Almenteros, Notary Public in the City of Manila on March 31, 2005, as per Doc. No. 369, Page No. 108, Book No. XXXX; Series of 2005 of his Notarial Register
PDI-April 16, 23 & 30, 2005

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Massuer 18-25yo 09204540607

WE ARE PUBLISHING SEVERAL MONTHLY TRADE MAGAZINES (OVER 40 YEARS OLD) BASED IN QUEZON CITY AND ARE IN NEED OF:

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- Not more than 28 years old;
- Must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree from a reputable school;
- With 4 years experience as editorial assistant, reporter or deskman;
- Proficient in Microsoft Programs;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and with above average communication skills, verbal and written;
- Computer literate.

Qualified aspirants may send in their application in writing with recent photo and bio-data to:

The Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 3454, Manila

or apply in person at:

626 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City

WANTED FOR GRAPHIC COMPANY

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
2 yrs. experience; College Graduate

MACINTOSH OPERATOR
1 yr. Experience; College Graduate

BRING : Resumé / NBI / Transcript of Records
CALL : Tel. No. 890-7279

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

WANTED: ELECTRICAL ENG'R
w/ experience
E-mail resume to:
fenclad@i-manila.com.ph

MALE/FEMALE

10 Female English Teachers, w /Call Ctr exp 80-100/hr 4 hrs David 0919-7247738

BSP•BSN•PT•MT
Any Allied Health Grads up to P45T/ Mo! 8927828

CAREGIVERS 3026893

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Camera / 4C stripper & Comp. Graphic Artist T330-7861 • 361-5350

HR • ACCTG • BUSS ENG'G
P/F up to P20K/mo T#3762642

OFFICE STAFF (0918)2742245 TRISH

OPTO 889-0106 11-9PM

SALES REP w/ Salary & Commission 09178398865 / 9151390 to 96

AMA Bank "The Largest Used Car Loan Bank in the Country," "2004 National Shoppers' Choice Awardee as No. 1 Rural Bank" & "Member of AMA Group of Companies," inaugurated and opened its Calamba Branch at Calamba City last April 05, 2005. Present as its guests of honor are from (L to R) Ambassador Amable R. Aguiluz V Chairman Emeritus, Mr. Andy dela Cruz, proprietor, Milsan Enterprises, EVP/COO Alejandro Soliman, Governor Teresita "Ning" Lazaro, Branch Manager Juanita Gallevo, City Mayor Joaquin Jr. & AVP Elma Lungca.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority

PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)
Loan No. : Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI
Description of Works : Construction and Development of two(2) Linear Parks at the DBM and Malacañang compounds along Pasig River

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contracts for DBM Procurement Service Linear Park Project and Malacañang Linear Park Project.
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract packages:

Contract Package	Construction and Development of the DBM South Linear Park	Construction and Development of the PSG Malacañang – Mabini Shrine Linear Park
Contract No.	EPA-LPP-24	EPA-LPP-26
Area	2,355.00 sq m.	7,630.00 sq m.
Location	Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Procurement Service Compound, San Miguel, Manila	Malacañang PSG Compound, San Miguel, Manila
Contract Duration	120 calendar days	180 calendar days
Project Description	Construction and development of linear park/ promenade which includes the following items of work: civil, electrical, plumbing, hardscape and softscape elements, among others.	Construction and development of linear park/ promenade which includes the following items of work: civil, electrical, plumbing, hardscape and softscape elements, among others.

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity		Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 11,500.00		From 25 April – 02 May 2005	From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	PRRC 2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents		From 25 April – 02 May 2005	From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
Pre-Bid Conference	DBM South Linear Park Malacañang Linear Park	23 May 2005	09:00 A.M.	PRRC (same address)	
Site Inspection	DBM South Linear Park	23 May 2005	02:00 P.M.	DBM Procurement Service Compound, San Miguel, Manila	Right after Pre-bid conference
	Malacañang Linear Park			Malacañang PSG Compound, San Miguel, Manila	Right after Pre-bid conference
Deadline for submission of Bids	DBM South Linear Park Malacañang Linear Park	06 June 2005	10:00 A.M.	PRRC (same address)	Late bids (bids submitted after 10 A.M.) shall not be accepted
Opening of Bids	DBM South Linear Park Malacañang Linear Park	06 June 2005	10:15 A.M.	PRRC (same address)	Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders

4. The City of Manila and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall be the implementing agencies of the *DBM South Linear Park Project* and the City of Manila and Malacañang PSG shall be the implementing agencies of the *PSG Malacañang – Mabini Shrine Linear Park Project.*
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check/Prequalification, Bid Evaluation, and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 and ADB Guidelines for the Procurement of Civil Works as standardized under the harmonized ADB-GOP Procurement of Works guidelines.
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-344
Email Address: prrc@tri-isys.com
Fax No. 926-52-34

(April 16 & 23, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU AUCTION

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce to all interested Farmer's Organizations (FO's), Retailers and other interested NFA licensed wholesalers/millers that NFA will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Auction of 50,000 MT or (1.0-Million bags) 15% brokens Vietnam Rice as follows:

COVERAGE	VOLUME (IN BGS)	INDICATIVE PRICE Ex Vessel	INDICATIVE PRICE Ex-Warehouse
Mindanao	250,000	P970.00/bag	P1,010/bag
Visayas	250,000	P970.00/bag	P1,010/bag
Luzon	500,000	P970.00/bag	P1,010/bag

The Pre-auction Conference and Auction Proper shall be held at 10:00 a.m. in the following dates or until the whole volume for auction has been sold/exhausted:

Venue	Contact Person	Pre-Auction Conference	Auction Proper
NFA Davao Office Sta Ana Ave., Davao City (for Mindanao only)	Ms. Dianne Silva Tel. # (082) 554-3200 Tel. # (082) 227-4166	April 22, 2005 May 9, 2005	April 26, 2005 May 12, 2005
NFA Cebu Office Gov. M. Cuenco Ave., Banilad, Cebu City (for Visayas only)	Mr. Piolito Santos Tel. # (032) 232-1939 Tel. # (032) 232-6832	April 22, 2005 May 9, 2005	April 26, 2005 May 12, 2005
NFA Central Office 101 Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City (for Luzon only)	Ms. Espie Tecson Tel. # 712-1708 Tel. # 712-1572	April 21, 2005 May 10, 2005	April 26, 2005 May 12, 2005

All offers must be accompanied by bid bond equivalent to 10% of the volume bidded in the form of Manager's or Cashier's Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting April 20, 2005 at the aforementioned venues from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For any inquiries, interested bidders can call the above-mentioned contact persons.

Bid documents will be available during the pre-auction conference to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,500.00 for FO's and retailers and P5,000.00 for other interested bidders (wholesalers/millers).

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) CONRADO DL. IBAÑEZ
Assistant Administrator/
Chairman, Disposition Committee

(PDI - April 16 & 18, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
PROVINCIAL GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE
Provincial Capitol Building, Dipolog City
Tel. #(065) 212-3561 Telefax #(065) 212-6492

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and delivery of Pharmacy Items, Medical, Dental and Laboratory Supplies, Construction & Electrical Supplies, Tires, Oil and Lubricants.

The Province of Zamboanga del Norte through the General Fund of 2005 intends to apply the following amount being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)

A. PHARMACY ITEMS		ABC
1. PR # 101(01)05-4-0706	Php	636,265.00
2. PR# 101(01)05-4-0702	Php	3,208,103.40
3. PR# 101(01)05-4-0700	Php	1,021,000.00
4. PR# 101(01)05-4-0711	Php	861,896.00
5. PR# 101(01)05-4-0704	Php	651,221.00
6. PR# 101(01)05-4-0697	Php	756,279.50
B. MEDICAL, DENTAL AND LABORATORY SUPPLIES		
1. PR# 101(01)05-4-0701	Php	345,374.40
2. PR# 101(09)05-4-0195	Php	405,292.60
3. PR# 101(01)05-4-0710	Php	380,680.30
4. PR# 101(01)05-4-0709	Php	662,947.90
5. PR# 101(01)05-4-0707	Php	332,719.64
6. PR#101(01)05-4-0705	Php	750,986.60

C. CONSTRUCTION AND ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES		ABC
1. PR # 101(01)05-4-0646	Php	2,482,401.00
2. PR# 101 (01)05-4-0647	Php	1,837,599.00
3. PR# 101(01)05-2-0266	Php	949,804.60
4. PR# 101(01)05-2-0264	Php	343,878.60
5. PR# 101(01)05-2-0224	Php	322,800.00
D. TIRES		
1. PR# 101(01)05-4-0682	Php	5,662,750.00
2. PR# 101(01)05-2-0346	Php	380,000.00
E. OIL AND LUBRICANTS		
1. PR# 101(01)05-4-0681	Php	1,455,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Province of Zamboanga del Norte now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders to apply for Eligibility and to Bid. Delivery of the Goods is required for thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of the Purchase Order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

Schedule of Activities	Date	Time
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 02 to 06, 2005	
2. Pre Bid Conference	May 09, 2005	10:00 A.M.
3. Opening of Bids & Eligibility Requirements	May 23, 2005	10:00 A.M.

All activities shall be held at the Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Bldg., Dipolog City, unless announced otherwise.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Secretariat Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below. Bidding Documents shall be issued upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand (Php 1,000.00) pesos.

The Province of Zamboanga del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liabilities to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) EMMANUEL S. LADERA
BAC, Chairman
PGSO, Capitol Bldg., Dipolog City 7100
Tel. # (065) 212-9093, 212-3561
Telefax # (065) 212-6492

(PDI – April 16 & 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
Quezon City

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

GENERAL MANAGER

FOR
Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(MARELCO)
Ihatub, Boac, Marinduque

Qualifications:

- 30-50 YEARS OLD
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Marinduque

Starting Salary P30,000.00

Application forms and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application forms is on 29 April 2005.

(Sgd.) **EDITA S. BUENO**
Administrator

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-020

RE: Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ships in its applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

LEONIDAS M. SUSAS,
Applicant.

x-----------------------------------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ships in its routes. under the following sailing frequencies, schedule of trips and rates

FOR LINER OPERATION

Name of Ship	Service to be offered
M/BCA LEO 3	Passengers and cargoes

Routes to be served:
Maya, Daanbantayan, Cebu – San Isidro, Leyte and vice versa: Maya, Daanbantayan, Cebu – Bogo, Cebu – Villaba, Leyte – Bogo, Cebu – Maya, Daanbantayan, Cebu

Sailing Frequencies/Schedule

Departure			Arrival		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
Maya		10 00 AM	San Isidro		12 00 NN
San Isidro	Next Day	8 00 AM	Maya		10 00 AM
Maya	Next Day	9 00 AM	Bogo		10 30 AM
	Ten (10) Days				
Bogo		12 00 NN	Villaba		2 30 PM
Villaba	Next Day	8 00 AM	Bogo		10 30 AM
Bogo		12:00 NN	Maya		1:30 PM

Passage Rates

LINKS		Type of Accommodation/Class	Rate
From	To		
Maya, Daan Bantayan	Bogo, Cebu		100 00
Bogo, Cebu	Villaba, Leyte		100 00
Maya, Daan Bantayan	San Isidro, Leyte		100 00

Cargo Rates

LINKS		Type of Cargo	Unit of Measure	Rate/Unit
From	To			
Maya, Daan Bantayan	Bogo, Cebu	Assorted	Per Kilo	P0 66
Bogo, Cebu	Villaba, Leyte	Cargoes		
Maya, Daan Bantayan	San Isidro, Leyte			

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines or in a newspaper of local circulation, as applicable.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 20 April 2005 at 2:30 PM at the Conference Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg cor. 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), after which, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.,** this 14th day of March 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABAÑEZ
Regional Director

(PDI – April 16, 2005)

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Reinsurance for NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY'S Directors and Officers Liability Cover)

The GSIS-GIBAC, thru its Technical Working Group (TWG) is inviting qualified local and foreign reinsurance companies/brokers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the reinsurance for the National Development Company's Directors and Officers Liability cover for the period 12:00 noon of May 8, 2005 to 12:00 noon of May 8, 2006, with an approved budget of P7,200,000.00, all inclusive.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Eligibility and Bidding Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes
April 11 to 18, 2005 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Reinsurance Department GIG, 5th Floor, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	April 19, 2005 2:00 PM Makati Skyline Restaurant 8th Floor, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	April 26, 2005 Submission 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Opening 2:30 PM Makati Skyline Restaurant 8th Floor, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

The lead reinsurer, either local or foreign, must have a credit rating of at least "A" from a reputable rating agency as of December 2004, and certify that it will provide a lead line of at least 40% of the reinsured risk.

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing of a Letter of Intent to Apply and payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P5,000.00 to the Government Service Insurance System.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bid, Sufficiency of Bid Security, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations.

The GIBAC and the TWG reserve the right to reject any and all bids or Letters of Intent, waive any defect therein and accept the offer which it deems responsive and most advantageous to the government.

April 5, 2005, Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) **ENRIQUETA P. DISUANCO**
GIBAC Chairman

(PDI – April 9 & 16, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-034

RE Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship/s in its/their applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

GOODWILL LIGHTERAGE CORPORATION,
Applicant.

x- -x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship/s in its/their route/s, under the following sailing frequency/ies, schedule of trips and rates

FOR TRAMP OPERATIONS:

Name of Ship	Area of Operation	Service/s Offered / to be Offered
LCT BLUE DRAGON	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes
LCT CONDOR	Any ports in the Philippines	Carriage of Cargoes

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in a newspaper once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 20 April 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg. cor 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision

WITNESS. the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR., this 13th day of April 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABANEZ
Regional Director

(PDI–April 16, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Meralco Avenue, DepED Complex, Pasig City
DepED

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply, Printing and Delivery of
Health Cards, Snellen's Charts, and Tuning Forks

1. The Department of Education (DepED) through the **Health and Nutrition Center (HNC)** is inviting suppliers and printers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items:

PACKAGE	ITEM	BUDGET
1	Supply, Printing & Delivery of Individual Health Cards (Elementary)	P 2,250,000.00
2	Supply, Printing & Delivery of Individual Health Cards (Secondary)	P1,400,000.00
3	Supply, Printing & Delivery of Snellen's Charts	P 340,000.00
4	Supply & Delivery of Tuning Forks	P 1,000,000.00

The total Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) is **PHILIPPINE PESOS FOUR MILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND & 00/100 ONLY (PhP 4,990,000.00)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC will be rejected at bid opening.

2. The **DepEd**, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply, Printing and Delivery of GOODS to the DepED HNC, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II, Instructions to Bidders, of the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on **April 11, 2005** until **April 18, 2005** upon submission of a letter of intent to the BAC Secretariat Office, 5th floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Philippine Pesos One Thousand & 00/100 only (Php 1,000.00).**
5. **The DepED, BAC** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **April 19, 2005,** 10 a.m. at the **Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Pasig City.**
6. Bids must be received on or before **May 2, 2005**, 10:00 a.m. at the **Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City.** Late Bids shall be rejected.
7. The **DepED, BAC** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI – April 9 & 16, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-026

RE: Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ships in its applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations

EDUARDO M. BUANTE,
Applicant.

x-----------------------------------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ships in its routes, under the following sailing frequencies, schedule of trips and rates.

FOR LINER OPERATION;

Name of Ship	Service to be offered
M/BCA MIRASOL-A	Passengers and cargoes

Routes to be served:
San Isidro, Leyte – Maya, Daan Bantayan, Cebu, Villaba, Leyte-Bogo, Cebu and Villaba, Leyte-San Isidro, Leyte and vice versa

Sailing Frequencies/Schedule

Departure			Arrival		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
San Isidro		8 00 AM	Maya		9 30 AM
Maya	Next Day	9 30 AM	San Isidro		11:00 AM
	Ten (10) days				
Villaba		8 00 AM	Bogo		10 00 AM
Bogo	Next Day	12 00 NN	Villaba		2 00 PM
Villaba		3 00 PM	San Isidro		3 40 PM

Passage Rates

LINKS		Type of Accommodations/Class	Rate
From	To		
San Isidro, Leyte	Maya, Daan Bantayan, Cebu	–	100 00
Maya, Daan Bantayan, Cebu	San Isidro, Leyte	–	100 00
Villaba, Leyte	Bogo, Cebu	–	100 00
Bogo, Cebu	Villaba, Leyte	–	100 00
Villaba, Leyte	San Isidro, Leyte	–	100 00

Cargo Rates

LINKS		Type of Cargo	Unit of Measure	Rate/Unit
From	To			
San Isidro, Leyte	Maya, Daan Bantayan, Cebu	Assorted	Per kilo	P0 66
Villaba, Leyte	Bogo, Cebu	Assorted	Per Kilo	P0 66
Villaba, Leyte	San Isidro, Leyte	Assorted	Per Kilo	

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines or in a newspaper of local circulation, as applicable.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 20 April 2005 at 2:30 PM at the Conference Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg cor 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), after which the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.,** this 14th day of March 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABAÑEZ
Regional Director

(PDI – April 16, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Cebu Maritime Regional Office
Ground Floor CCCI Center, cor. 11th & 13th Avenues,
North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

Case No. CMRO 05-027

RE: Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ships in its applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

ROBERTO M. BUANTE,
Applicant.

x-----------------------------------x

ORDER

This refers to the Application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ships in its routes, under the following sailing frequencies, schedule of trips and rates

FOR LINER OPERATION

Name of Ship	Service to be offered
M/BCA MIRASOL-B	Passengers and cargoes

Routes to be served:
San Isidro, Leyte – Maya, Daan Bantayan, Cebu and vice versa

Sailing Frequencies/Schedule

Departure			Arrival		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
San Isidro		8 00 AM	Maya		10 00 AM
Maya	Next Day	10 00 AM	San Isidro		11 30 AM

Passage Rates

LINKS		Type of Accommodation/Class	Rate
From	To		
San Isidro, Leyte	Maya, Daan Bantayan, Cebu		100 00

Cargo Rates

LINKS		Types of Cargo	Unit of Measure	Rate/Unit
From	To			
San Isidro, Leyte	Maya, Daan Bantayan, Cebu	Assorted	Per kilo	P0 66

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines or in a newspaper of local circulation, as applicable.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships. Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 20 April 2005 at 2:30 PM at the Conference Room, Cebu Maritime Regional Office, Ground Floor, CCCI Bldg. cor. 11th & 13th Avenues, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE) after which, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.,** this 14th day of March 2005 at Cebu City, Philippines.

(Sgd.) GLENN G. CABAÑEZ
Regional Director

(PDI – April 16, 2005)

JOB Market
VISIT US AT:
www.jobmarketonline.com

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

Headquarters and Gene Pool
Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines 3120
FAX: 63 (044) 456-0730
Tel.: 63 (044) 456-0731 to 34
E-mail: pcc-oed@mozcom.com
URL: www.pcc.da.gov.ph
Manila Liaison Office
3F DCIBC Bldg., NIA Cmpd., EDSA, Quezon City, Philippines 0830
Tel/FAX: 63 (2) 921-3863
63 (2) 921-7707
E-mail: pcc-mla@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder projects:

Package #	Particulars	Approved Budget
I.	Semen Processing and Artificial Insemination Supplies	P1,999,018.75
II.	Veterinary Drugs and Supplies	645,504.50
III.	Laboratory/Chemical Supplies	905,001.80
IV.	Tires	420,400.00
	Total	**P3,969,925.05**

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	April 25-28, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference (PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool)	May 3, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)
3. Opening of Bids (PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool)	May 10, 2005 (2:00 p.m.)
4. Bid Evaluation	May 10, 2005
5. Post-qualification	May 11-17, 2005
6. Notice of Award	30 days after Bid Evaluation

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of one hundred fifty pesos (P150) to the Philippine Carabao Center Cashier.

The Philippine Carabao Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **EULOGIO M. MONTEALTO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - April 15 & 16, 2005)

DepED
REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631-96-40
Direct Line : 633-93-42
Trunk Line : 632-13-61 locals 2221 / 2007
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

2005 Call for Submission of Textbooks and Teacher's Manuals

The Department of Education is inviting interested publishers to submit copies of camera-ready materials for their series of textbooks and accompanying teacher's manuals for:

- **Makabayan** (Social Studies component) Grades 1 to 6 and First to Fourth Year high school intended for use in public schools nationwide starting SY 2006-2007; and
- **English** for Grades 1 to 6 and First to Fourth Year high school for use in SY 2007-2008.

All submitted materials will undergo a content evaluation process in four levels:

- Level 1 to test completeness of coverage, organization, and internal consistency;
- Level 2 to check accuracy of facts and information, integrity of concepts, and sequence of learning concepts;
- Level 3 to test the appropriateness of the language and visuals used; and
- Level 4 to ensure correct grammar and syntax.

The evaluation result will either be for Major Revision or Minor Revision. Content evaluation will NOT be on a Pass/Fail basis and therefore does not constitute pre-qualification.

Publishers will pay an evaluation fee of **twenty thousand pesos (P20,000)** either in cash or manager's check for each set of textbook and teacher's manual to be evaluated. The evaluation fee will be used to defray expenses for service fees, transportation, and board and lodging of evaluators. Publishers will be given a copy of the recommendations of the evaluators at the different levels which will serve as basis for revising the materials prior to submission for bidding. All materials – even those requiring major revisions – may be submitted when bids are tendered as scheduled. Equal opportunity shall be extended to other publishers who are capable of complying with DepEd's requirements.

The materials for Social Studies and English should be submitted to the DepEd-Instructional Materials Council Secretariat (IMCS), 5th Floor, Mabini Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City not later than **June 16, 2005.**

In order to get a soft copy of the Learning Competencies and the 2005 Textbook Call Guidelines, bring a blank compact disk at the DepEd-IMCS starting April 18, 2005. For more information, please contact Ms. Daisy Asuncion O. Santos or Ms. Nonie M. Barraquias at 634-1054 or 631-9294.

For your information and guidance.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary

(PDI–April 16 & 23, 2005)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG PANANALAPI
KAWANIHAN NG RENTAS INTERNAS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), through its *Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)*, invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	*Procurement of 600 Cartridges of Toner for Lexmark 1250/1255 Printer*
Location	:	*BIR National Office*
Brief Description	:	*High Yield; 17,600 copies per toner P/N 13629.25*
Approved Budget	:	*P7,854,000.00*
Delivery Period	:	*Batch I - 300 Cartridges - within thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of approved Purchase Order (P.O.)* *Batch II - 300 Cartridges - within ninety (90) calendar days upon receipt of approved Purchase Order (P.O.)*

Prospective bidders must should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows.

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	April 19 to May 16, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	May 2, 2005
3. Opening of Bids	May 16, 2005
4. Bid Evaluation	May 17 to June 1, 2005
5. Post-qualification	June 2-9, 2005
6. Notice of Award	June 30, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Four Pesos Only (P7,854.00)* to the BIR Cashier

The BIR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC Secretariat, thru the Chief, Procurement Division at Room 605, 6th Floor, BIR-NOB, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 928-5547, 926-5538 and 928-2026 (fax), or e-mail us at nelly.ibo@bir.gov.ph until May 15, 2004

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOSE MARIO C. BUÑAG
Deputy Commissioner
Legal and Inspection Group
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - April 16 & 23, 2005)

THE HERITAGE PARK FORT BONIFACIO
Mortuary – Crematory

*The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country!
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (632) 845-2440

OBITUARIES

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
104 years
143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No.: 712-2782

HEDY DAVID NACINO

of San Fernando, Pampanga

...passed away in the grace of our Lord
on April 14, 2005 at the age of 64.

Her loving husband **Proceso** and children **Lizette** and **Nato**, **Lyn** and **Jo**, **Allan** and **Stella**, **Susan** and **Leo**, **Pam** and **Jon**, her grandchildren, brothers, sisters and relatives request for your kind prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Nacino residence at Don Ramon Village, San Agustin, San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will follow on Sunday, April 17, 2005 at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park, San Fernando, Pampanga after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

Helen Dolorico Divino, M.D., FPOGS

Former HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY,
Former MEDICAL DIRECTOR,
DR. FE DEL MUNDO MEDICAL CENTER

Accomplished and dedicated physician, wise and compassionate mentor,
loving and devoted sister, thoughtful and caring Tita,
generous and devoted Tita Lola

Peacefully joined her Creator on April 11, 2005.

She is survived by her siblings and their spouses: **JACOBO, JR.** & MAGDALENA, **MANUEL, SR.** & EUMENA, **VIRGINIA** & GREGORIO; nephews and their spouses, and nieces: **GREGORY** and ROSALIE, **JACOB** and VIRNA, **GERALDINE**, **GEOFFREY** and CARLA, **LILY ANN**, **MANUEL JR.**; grandnephews and grandnieces: **POPOI, QUILO, T, GIO, ANDIE, SABINE** and **STELLA**.

Her remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Chapel of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City. Daily Masses are held at 7 p.m.

Thanksgiving Mass will be held at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 17, 2005 at the Mt. Carmel Chapel of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City. Her body will then be brought to the Loyola Memorial Park Crematory in Marikina City for cremation and then interment.

Please pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

In lieu of flowers, those whose lives she has touched may give donations to the fund the family is raising to improve the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Fe Del Mundo Medical Center (formerly Children's Medical Center).

FE CONSOLACION REDITO-REBUENO

Peacefully joined her husband ***Emilio***
and daughter ***Rosa Ma. Carmela***
on April 14, 2005 at the age of 74.

Her bereaved children **Raymund**, **Ma. Regina**, **Ma. Martina Rebueno-Garcia**, **Joseph Benedict**, son-in-law **Ignacio Garcia**; grandchildren **Miguel Antonio**, **Sophia Ma. Carmela** and **Anna Ma. Isabela**, brothers and sisters **Wenceslao** and **Milagros**, **Josefina**, **Zenaida** and **Jose Gregorio**, **Rafael** (†) & **Beatrice**, **Sr. Antonia Cesar** and **Marilou**, nephews and nieces request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 19, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

The Family of

FRANK RELOVA HERNANDEZ

wish to thank all the people
who comforted and prayed with us
during our time of bereavement.

"Even when I walk
through a dark valley,
I feel no harm.
For you are
at my side,
your rod and staff
give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

In remembrance of the
First Death Anniversary of

PILAR VIOLAN TORRES

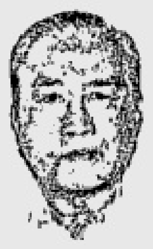
of San Pablo City and Sacramento, California
(28 September 1916 – 17 April 2004)

Masses will be offered on Saturday, 16 April 2005 at the following churches:

San Pablo Cathedral	all masses throughout the day
The Carmelite Monastery, San Pablo City	7:00 a.m.
Sto. Rosario Parish Church, Pacita Complex, Laguna .	7:30 p.m.

Her brother, **Pepito**; sister **Liwayway de Mesa**; nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces likewise request the presence of all those whose lives she touched to join them in prayers and recitation of the Holy Rosary on 16 April 2005 at her residence in Marasigan St., Lakeside Park Subdivision, San Pablo City.

JESUS CENABRE TRINIDAD



of Aparri, Cagayan and
5-A Malingap St., Teachers' Village (West), Diliman QC

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
on April 12, 2005 at the age of 93.

His bereaved children **Fred, Pabling, Fe, Cherrie, Chiqui, Grace, Hanes**; brothers **Jose (Pepe) & Tomas**, sister **Mariben T. Rutherford (USA)**; children-in-law **Glory, Florentina, Jean, Pauline, Rolly & Jimmy**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces & other relatives & friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church, Mahinhin St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City beside Claret School.

Interment will be on April 20, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00AM Mass.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS

CLASSIFIEDS

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION

PNOC
Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos.: 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the ON-CALL LIGHTERAGE SERVICES (CM04-1209). The contract duration is one (1) year.

The approved budget for this contract is Php 180,680,000.00 chargeable against PNOC EC funds.

Eligibility and Bid Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address from the Contracts Assistant (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro/Mr. Carlos L. Mejias) starting April 19, 2005 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PESOS: One Thousand Five Hundred (PHP 1,500.00).

Eligibility of prospective bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of RA 9184. The Government Procurement Reform Act. Only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and to be awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided that the concerned Bidder shall pass the post-qualification process.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on May 5, 2005. 2:00 P.M. at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The Eligibility Requirements and the Bid Documents, composed of two (2) sealed envelope, the first envelope containing the Technical Bid and the second envelope containing the Financial Bid shall be submitted in two (2) sets each to the Bids and Awards Committee not later than 3:00 P.M. of May 19, 2005 at the PNOC EC Conference Room located at the above address and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) **Ernesto S. San Jose**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–April 16, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites authorized distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and delivery of **Purified Water in five-gallon containers (about 300 containers per week from June 1 to December 31, 2005) with an approved budget for the contract of P298,000.00** for use at the NFA Central Office:

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

April 11 to 26, 2005	Issuance of List of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents and Submission of Letter of Intent
April 27, 2005 (10:00 AM)	Pre-bidding Conference, 10th Floor, NFA Boardroom
May 11, 2005	Receipt and Opening of Bids, 10th Floor, NFA
(9:00-9:45 AM)	Submission of eligibility documents and bid proposals
(10:00 AM)	Opening of eligibility documents and bid proposals

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Eligibility requirements and bidding documents may be secured from the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 5th Floor, Tengsico Building, National Food Authority, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City upon payment of **P1,000.00**, non-refundable fee. The **Letter of Intent** should be submitted to the BAC Secretariat not later than the close of business hours of **April 26, 2005**. For further inquiries, please call Mr. Jose D. Chua at Tel. No. 712-6813 (direct line) or Tel. No. 712-3341 up to 49 local 6023.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY REQUIRED FORMALITY IN THE BIDS RECEIVED, PROVIDED THAT SUCH WAIVER DOES NOT REFER TO A MAJOR DEVIATION IN A BID AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator & BAC Chair

(PDI - Apr 9 & 16, 2005)

PCCI chair, NHMFC head at NREA meet

CHAIR Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis, Jr. of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and president Celso G. delos Angeles, Jr. of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) topbill, as resource speakers, the Monthly Business Forum of the National Real Estate Association (NREA) on April 26 (Tues.), 1 to 5 p.m. at Gabaldon Hall, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Ortiz-Luis, who is also vice president of the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines and Commissioner of the Social Security System, will discuss the current industry developments that affect the real estate and housing, as well as their impact on the national economy.

Organizationman Jose V. Manalad, NREA national president, also announced that Celso G. delos Angeles, Jr., NHMFC president, will update NREA membership on the status of current initiatives to boost homelending for the informal settlers under NHMFC's Community Mortgage Program (CMP).

New members will also be inducted during the affair.

The business meeting committee is chaired by Lawyer Bercy G. Garcia, association secretary general with Edward Dee, Veronica Lim, Edison Oribiana, Nene Estrada, Sol Antonio, Celia Umali, Tess delos Reyes and Jesse Rebustillo, as members.

Non-members of NREA, including representatives of housing Non-government Organizations, may attend the business meeting upon prior coordination with NREA Secretariat at tels. 912-3492 or 913-4463.

Sun Cellular offers new 24/7 Text Unlimited service

SUN Cellular, the fastest growing network that dares to be the first in delivering groundbreaking mobile phone services, recently rolled out a new and exciting treat to its valued subscribers to fire up the urge to text, text and text - the new 24/7 Text Unlimited service!

Prompted by the huge success of the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited service which has become the undisputed benchmark in value-for-money offer to mobile phone subscribers, the new 24/7 Text Unlimited is a welcome 'text-all-you-want' deal that allows both postpaid and prepaid Sun Cellular subscribers to enjoy unlimited local Sun-to-Sun texting at a low, fixed rate. The new service, now available to all Sun Cellular subscribers, gives text-savvy mobile phone users the ultimate freedom to send all those messages they want to share at any time, without worrying about the cost of sending an SMS.

Sun Cellular knows that even text messaging can be expensive too. No matter how much we want to send, forward or reply to messages sent to us, we can only text as much as our available SMS credits can allow us. This is especially true for the young market - teenagers and young adults who express themselves and communicate to their peers mainly through texting. With Sun Cellular's new 24/7 Text Unlimited, there's no more reason to hold back sending that precious message. Subscribers can actually enjoy a minimum of 30 percent to as much as 50 percent daily savings. Make a richer, stronger connection with family, loved ones, friends and barkadas in the most convenient and affordable way possible - via the new 24/7 Text Unlimited.

Prepaid subscribers can avail of the new 24/7 Text Unlimited convenience for as low as P50. By loading the card, all their Sun-to-Sun SMS are taken care of. This means great savings and extended texting frenzy since their free SMS allocation is only consumed if they text non-Sun Cellular subscribers, while their regular load credits will only be used up if they call and text non-Sun Cellular subscribers, make IDD and NDD calls or conduct Value Added Service (VAS) transactions like video and music downloads. Prepaid subscribers simply have to load the new 24/7 Text Unlimited call card available in two denominations, P50 valid for 7 days or P150 valid for 30 days through an easy loading system - via call cards, e-pins or via text. For Postpaid subscribers, simply enroll your account once to enjoy the new 24/7 Text Unlimited service for only P150 a month. This fee will be built-in to your monthly service fee.

While the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited answers the need of a diverse profile of mobile phone subscribers - busy parents, relatives in different provinces, sales groups, professionals and businessmen, the new 24/7 Text Unlimited is sure to be a hit among the young "text-nophiles," those who pursue wholesome fun and strive to be in touch by texting day and night.

Sun Cellular's 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited and new 24/7 Text Unlimited are regular and permanent services, not just promos. This means subscribers can enjoy these services for as long as they want. They can also experience instant access to these services with many loading and reloading options available and without the hassle of registration, allowing them to text or call the number directly, without having to go through an access number. Once 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited or the new 24/7 Text Unlimited is loaded, the service takes effect immediately.

Moreover, subscribers enjoy these unlimited services as long as the unlimited call card's validity period is in effect. That's real value for money since subscribers get to use their available credit up to the last peso.

Get those fingers moving and grab the new 24/7 Text Unlimited deal now and be counted among the highly satisfied subscribers who are enjoying only the best and the real unlimited deals available - whether its the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited or the new 24/7 Text Unlimited, Sun Cellular subscribers rule.

Sun Cellular is committed in accommodating its growing family of subscribers, as seen from its aggressive network expansion. The network owes it to every Sun Cellular subscriber to provide the best value-for-money services, and will continue its efforts to improve further its network coverage.

For more information about Sun Cellular, visit its website at www.suncellular.com.ph or call its 24-hour hotline number at 395-8000.

AYALA-MAKATI AVENUE UNDERPASS PROJECT
CONTRACT SIGNING
NOVEM 19, 200

AYALA-MAKATI AVENUE UNDERPASS PROJECT CONTRACT SIGNING

The Ayala Ave/Makati Ave underpass, which is part of Makati Commercial Estate Association Inc's (MaCEA) pedestrianization program, is the 6th pedestrian underpass project to be undertaken in the Makati Central Business District (MCBD) by MaCEA. It will feature ascend escalators, wide stairways and bright-lit passageways as in the other underground facilities. Its construction started on Jan. 16 and is projected for completion in the last quarter of 2005. It is expected to help ease the pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the said intersection. The new passageway will also indirectly contribute to unimpeded movement of commerce within the MCBD and beyond. The project is being undertaken by MaCEA in cooperation with the City Government of Makati and Ayala Land Inc. Shown are (seated, from left) Z.G. Tayaban, Makati Development Corp (MDC) comptroller; C.V. Campos, MaCEA president; J.V. Mendoza, MDC EVP; (standing, form left) architect W.V. Coscolluela, MaCEA governor; C.S. Rufino, MaCEA governor; M.T. Garcia, MaCEA governor, A.M. Duarte, MaCEA vice president; E.J. Tumbocon, MDC president; J.R. Matias, MaCEA general manager.

CEM ESTABLISHES PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIV. OF MINNESOTA

The Center for Educational Measurement (CEM), premier institution on educational assessment and research in the Philippines, has recently established partnership with the Office of Measurement Services of the University of Minnesota (U of M). The partnership aims to provide integrated and comprehensive systems of high quality assessment along with first-rate products and services. By utilizing U of M's vast testing, assessment, and communication resources, CEM becomes more equipped in addressing many of the sensitive issues that the local educational sector is facing today. Dr. Thomas Dohm (left), University of Minnesota program director, presents the memorandum of agreement to Dr. Lenore Decenteceo, CEM president, and Dr. Reynaldo Bautista, CEM chair.

AIM CONDUCTS 1ST OVERSEAS RUN OF ITS FAMCOR PROGRAM

The Asian Institute of Management (AIM) recently conducted a successful first overseas run of its Managing Family Corporations (FamCor) program. This was the 13th run of FamCor, which is normally offered in the Philippines. Participants from all over Asia hailed the four-day course held in Singapore's Sentosa Resort and Spa. The Philippines' Tuviera family took the course. Family patriarch Tony Tuviera is the producer of the longest-running noontime show in the Philippines. In photo are (from left) professor Mila Lagrosa of AIM; Faty Khusumo of PT Temas Lestari; Celeste Tuviera, vice president of APT Group; Dr. Sri Adriyani Lestari Purnomo and Noni Sri Ayati Purnomo, directors of the Blue Bird Group; professor Marivi Gonzalez, program director of the AIM FamCor program; (second row) Eduardo Tuviera, president of APT; Antonio Tuviera, chair of APT; SVM Sastry, advisor of the GMR Group; Kresna Djokosoetono, Sigit Djokosoetono, and Adrianto Djokosoetono, directors of the Blue Bird Group; (third row) professor Jacinto Gavino of AIM; Jojo Oconer and Joseph Mahusay of APT; Ahmad Mughira Nurhani, president director of PT Intermasa; Prasad Kumar, executive advisor of the GMR Group; and Bessie Nery, AIM program administrator. For inquiries on the FamCor program, contact the AIM Excell Marketing Group at (632) 8924011 ext. 102 or at excell_admissions@aim.edu.ph.

1ST TIME MOM WINS IN READER'S DIGEST SWEEPSTAKES DRAW

Anna Lee Jimenez, a first time mom, is the lucky winner of P1.32M in the recently held Asia-wide 2004 Reader's Digest Sweepstakes draw. She won 'The Lap of Luxury Draw', the biggest prize to go to a Filipino. The awarding ceremony was held at the head office of A-Z Direct Market Inc, Reader's Digest exclusive distributor in the Philippines. Awarding the check to Anna Lee are Lilet Camara-Yan, advertising director of Reader's Digest Asia-Philippines, and Fabio Enriquez, EVP of A-Z Direct Marketing Inc.

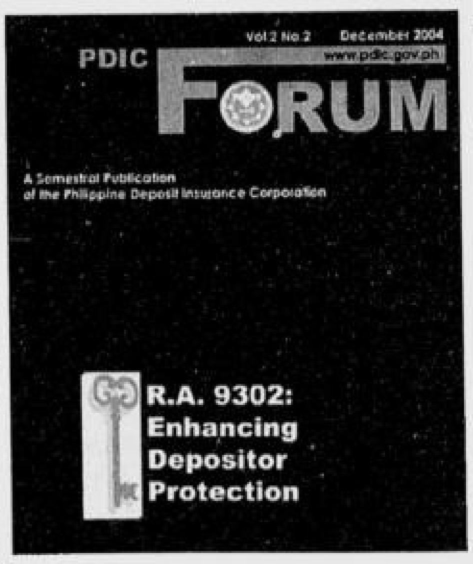
SUMMER DANCE FUN

The Effie Nanas Dancentre announces its summer programs. The school offers classical ballet, modern jazz, hip hop and taekwondo for all kids and adults. Equipped with excellent faculty members, the school assures you of great training. The faculty is headed by Effie Nanas, one of the country's ballet luminaries. Located at the 4th level of Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong, the school is right at the center of Metro Manila, thus very accessible and convenient for everyone. The programs is from April 1 until May 31, with a recital to culminate the summer. Visit Dancentre or call 633-7871 for details

ProductFILES

PDIC issues the Forum

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corporation recently released the third issue of the PDIC Forum. The Forum is a semestral publication focused on deposit insurance and financial stability issues, offering relevant banking data and fresh perspectives on critical issues, trends, and developments in the banking sector. For its third issue, the Forum focused on Enhancing Depositor Protection through the PDIC Charter change. Notable among the amendments are the increase in the maximum deposit insurance coverage from P100,000 to P250,000, the reinstatement of PDIC's authority to examine banks with prior approval from the Monetary Board, imposition of stiffer penalties for unsafe and unsound banking practices, and extension of prescriptive period for the filing of claims from 18 months to 24 months. The issue also contains an interview with Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, and an article on Indonesia's deposit insurance system. Interested parties may call 841-4636 to 37.



Vol 2 No 2 December 2004
www.pdic.gov.ph

PDIC FORUM

A Semestral Publication of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation

R.A. 9302: Enhancing Depositor Protection

Chicken Torpedo in a jiffy

TWO decades after Filipinos first took a bite of the irresistible Chicken Joy, the classic delight now comes in other equally delicious varieties - Crispy Chicken Strips and the newest chicken craze to hit the metro, Chicken Torpedo. What do you get when you put in two crispy chicken strips, creamy mayo and fresh lettuce leaves in a soft hotdog bun? An explosion of flavors that's bound to leave you speechless with satisfaction. It's the same chicken recipe you've grown to love in a sandwich version that's perfect for people on the run.

BITS Clips

Nido 1 + Baby Milyonaryo

NIDO 1+, a growing up milk with DHA and Prebio1 for children aged 1 to 3 years, helps parents take the first step in ensuring their children's full potential through "Nido 1+ Baby Milyonaryo" nationwide raffle promo. With every purchase of any Nido1+ or Nido 3+ pack entitles a consumer a chance to win as much as P1 million in the form of BPI Platinum Accounts for his or her child's future. For the preliminary draw on April 17, two entry senders, one from Luzon/GMA area and one from Vizayas/Mindanao, will each win P100,000 in the form of BPI Platinum Accounts, a high-earning savings account and insurance coverage rolled into one that will help save for their children's future. And for the grand draw, a lucky child will get to enjoy the chance to be the first Nido 1+ Baby Milyonaryo with a cool P1 million BPI Platinum Account to help secure his tomorrow. See print ads and posters for more details.

Automatic Centre summer promo

AUTOMATIC Centre presents the Summer Trips & Treats promo, where the whole family can enjoy an amazing summer trip to Palawan and other cool destinations. Visit any Automatic Centre or Sogo branch now up to June 5. Every purchase of any brand of air conditioner, chiller, freezer or refrigerator, entitles you to a raffle coupon where you get a chance to win Magic Sing units or a vacation package for the family to Boracay, Banaue, Palawan, Cebu or Bohol in the grand draw. What's more, you can enjoy the coolest white line appliances at Super Installment for 12 months when you use your Bankard, BDO, BPI, Citibank, Diners, Equitable, HSBC, Metrobank, Security Bank and Standard Chartered credit cards on your purchase during the promo period. Plus, 0 percent interest offers are available through major credit cards.

Mother Earth Fair

PHILTRADE Exhibits is hosting an event dedicated to the prevention and conservation of nature and earth in general entitled "Mother Earth Fair", scheduled on April 16 and 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Santuario de San Antonio de San Antonio Parish Social Hall and Courtyard. The special features of the event are natural healing, nerve alignment, Pranic healing, aromatherapy, Reiki healing and other natural medicine. For more details please call Philtrade Exhibits at 825-3482 or 825-0804.

Review for realty broker's exam

THE URBAN Institute of Real Estate released the schedule of its upcoming Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar (CRES) and review that will be taken for a complete preparation for the DTI-supervised broker's licensure examination on May 29. The Saturday Section is scheduled on April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, and 21, from 1:15 to 6:45 p.m. while the Tuesday Section will be on April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, and 24, same time. All sessions will be held at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Suare Drive corner Theater Dr., Ayala Center, Makati City. Both section includes a general review on the last day. For more information call 681-0928 or text 0916-426-9174 or email urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

1st Fishing Tourney at D' Pond

THE 888 Fishing Place, a fishing restaurant and bar located at Covelandia road, in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite will be having a Fishing Tournament dubbed as "1st Fishing Tourney at the Pond", which is set on May 1, Sunday. Invited to participate in the big summer fishing event are all anglers from different cities such as Manila, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Cavite. The tournament will start at 8 a.m. up to 2 p.m., hosted by lawyer Mar Espiritu. Sponsored by Ginebra San Miguel. The entry fee per angler is P150. For reservation and inquiries please call 888 Fishing Place at (046) 434-0803; Melay Santos at 0915-563-8209.

Semicon rings Buyer's Choice Award

AS ANOTHER feather to the cap of Semicon, the Awards of Recognition Association of the Philippines (Arap) recently awarded the telecom marketing leader with the Buyer's Choice Award for outstanding contribution in dealing quality products and excellent services to its customers. The award was handed out by Dr. Zenaida Medrano, the awards committee chair. The ceremony was held at the Garden Ballroom at Shangri-La Hotel in Edsa last Jan. 28. This is further proof of Semicon's continued dominance.

Police Academy top grad

CADET First Class David Joy Bangcaya Duarte, received the Presidential Kampilan Award for graduating number one in the 26th Philippine National Police Academy graduation exercises for 174 cadets of Marangal Class 2005 at Camp General Mariano Castañeda in Silang, Cavite. He also received the Chief, PNP Award for ranking number one among cadets joining the PNP and the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) President Leadership Award for being class president of the Marangal Class of 2005.

Marikina Celebrates its 375th Founding Anniversary

Spurs Confidence in City's Economy

Today, April 16, 2005, Marikina celebrates its 375th Founding Anniversary with the Ka-Angkan 2005 festivities. The occasion provides a sense of history and culture which most Marikenos still continue to value, as it has helped shape their community, and is a vital factor in the city's vision for a better Marikina.

Hon. Mayor Marides Fernando

Over the last 12 years, Marikina has transformed itself from a backwater industrial valley into a verdant and vibrant city that is the showcase of the best local government management in the country.

With the building blocks of an urban center firmly set in place, Marikina is now primed to become a major investment destination for property developers, retailers, and service-providers.

The determined and focused leadership of the Fernandos, along with the able assistance of the Vice-Mayor, City Councilors and City Engineers has not only given Marikina City a major face lift, but it has also boosted investor confidence in the city and shifted government performance from being just merely a service provider to an economic manager.

Federal Land, the property arm of the country's biggest financial services group, Metrobank, is among the first to take advantage of the emerging opportunities in Marikina City with the P5 billion worth Marquinton - a master-planned community - & one of the biggest property development projects ongoing east of Metro Manila.

The face of Marikina City has changed dramatically since 1992 under the maverick leadership of Bayani Fernando who was named chief of the Metro Manila Development Authority in 2002 after serving three terms. It was under Fernando that Marikina City finally shed off its image as a dirty, flood-prone, and traffic-choked industrial town.

A model of local governments nationwide, Marikina City is now widely recognized not only as the Shoe Capital of the Philippines, but as one of the cleanest cities in the country, with more than an armful of local and international awards to prove it, including the Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran Award, the Konrad Adenauer Medal of Excellence for Best Managed City in the Philippines, the Galing Pook Continuing Excellence Award, the Galing Pook Hall of Fame Award, and the Galing Pook Award for Innovation and Excellence (DILG and Ford Foundation).

The greening of Marikina City has put to fore its natural endowments as a lush valley nestled between towering peaks of the Sierra Madre and the gentle rolling hills of Quezon City; and the Marikina river, one of the cleanest and safest waterways in the country, running through it.

Fernando's big shoes have been ably filled up by his wife, Marides, who is in her second term as city mayor. It was under her watch that Marikina City was recognized as the country's Best City its quality of life, infrastructure and responsiveness of government in the 2004 Philippine Cities Competitiveness Ranking conducted by the Asian Institute of Management.

Using the same zeal in sprucing up the city's environs, the Fernandos also set their sights in putting in place a permanent solution to Marikina's flood woes -- the Sumulong Flood Interceptor project which was completed in 1996. The project has considerably alleviated the area's flooding problem that used to affect a quarter of the city.

The Fernandos have likewise improved access to Marikina with the widening and rehabilitation of major thoroughfares and adoption of an effective traffic management system; maintained the peace and order; addressed the squatter problem; and instilled community pride among its residents.

From the urban basics and aesthetics, the incumbent mayor is now looking to boost Marikina's economics with her plan to attract big and small investors that would invest at least P20 billion over the next few years.

"Federal Land's vision is to create healthy and liveable communities conducive to raising families for generations to come. The rapid development over the years in Marikina has made it become a cleaner and friendlier city to live in and more people realize that these achievements are essential in enhancing investment value ," said Alfred Ty, president of Federal Land, Inc. who is optimistic the Marquinton project would help in bringing Marikina City closer to its vision as a Little Singapore.

The city's improvement in urban living standards has naturally fueled a pent-up demand for modern commercial centers that Federal Land hopes to address with the Blue Wave @ Marquinton, a three-level leisure and entertainment mall set for a soft opening this April 2005. Blue Wave will showcase the city's first quadruplex cinema, an Internet gaming center, a Time Zone of Australia video arcade and dining outlets like Starbucks, Jollibee, KFC, Max's Restaurant, Pancake House, Yellow Cab, Pizza Hut, Superbowl of China and other fast food outlets. Other shops will include non-food establishments such as a beauty and spa center, and other lifestyle & convenience shops.

Marquinton (short for Marikina Town Center) boasts of a great location with its proximity to Marikina City's main business center and recreational areas and accessibility with a sprawling frontage along the city's major access roads – Sumulong Highway and Fernando Avenue (formerly A. Tuazon Avenue). Blue Wave will also open up modular units available for entrepreneurs wanting to get a piece of the action in Marikina City.

Marquinton will also build three, eight-story towers to meet the rising demand for a modern residential community with clean and wide roads and complete amenities. Alicante Tower will have 278 units ranging from 1BR – 3BR units (29 – 70 sqm) as well as 3BR Loft Units (88 – 95sqm) on the Penthouse level. Barcelona Tower will have 201 units ranging from 1BR-3BR units (30 - 88.5 sqm.) and 3BR & 4BR Loft units at the top floor. The Barcelona Tower is targeted for completion by 2nd quarter of 2006 while the Alicante tower will be finished by last quarter 2006.

Ty said Marikina's vision has jived well with Federal Land's vision of "constructing not just big concrete blocks, but building communities that people want to grow old with."

Federal Land has 33 years experience in real estate development specializing in high-rise office, commercial and residential condominiums in Metro Manila.

Where the Sun Rises

so will

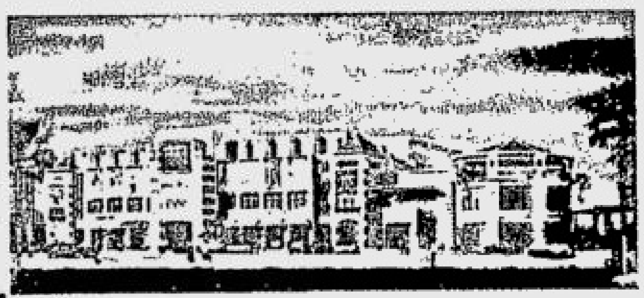
MARQUINTON
RESIDENCES
MARIKINA CITY

The heart of a vibrant new Marikina:

Rising with the city's cultural and infrastructural achievements.

A housing development with full residential amenities, and a variety of unit sizes (1-, 2-, 3-bedroom, and penthouse loft units available).

A mall with four cinemas, and all your favorite leisure, shopping, and food outlets: Blue Wave @ MARQUINTON



All the comforts of Marikina's newest residential development.

The convenience of living close to the metropolis' major thoroughfares.

A 17-hectare masterplanned development.

A space where you can celebrate life.

Welcome to the **Marquinton, Marikina City**.
Welcome to the urban life – redefined.

MARQUINTON

Sumulong Highway corner Fernando Avenue, Marikina City

For announcement purposes only

Designer Showroom 681-0111 • Fedsales Marketing, Inc. 886-0000 • Omni-orient Marketing Network, Inc. 891-8888

A member of the Metrobank Group

Taking Life Higher. FEDERALAND

FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

APRIL 17, 2005

6:00 a.m.	Marikina 1st Bicycle Fiesta (Riverpark)
7:00 a.m.	Mag-dance Exercise Tayo! (Riverpark)
8:00 a.m.	Marikina Day Mass (Roman Garden)
9:00 a.m.	Ka-Angkan Citywide Motorcade (Citywide) Hayag-Saliwan: Dance Interaction (Teatro Marikina) Kasanayan: Craft Workshop (Groto-Kawayanan Area) Saliwan: Interactive Visual Arts (Groto)
10:00 a.m.	Sarap ng Lutong Pinoy! (Brgy. Display Area)
11:00 a.m.	Piknikan sa Tumana (Riverpark)
1:00 p.m.	Usapan with Choir Masters (Doll Museum)
5:00 p.m.	Ilognayan: Pagpupugay at Pasasalamat (Floating Stage)
6:00 p.m.	Ka-Angkan sa Ilognayan (Floating Stage) Hapunan sa Ilog
7:00 p.m.	Hiyas ng Marikina (Teatro Marikina) Ka-Angkan Nightly Show (Floating Stage)

APRIL 17, 2005

3:00 p.m.	Ka-Angkan Parade (MSP – Riverpark)
6:00 p.m.	Ka-Angkan Program / Awarding (Floating Stage) Featuring Andrew E., 6 Cycle Mind, Sandwich
8:00 p.m.	Fireworks Display (Riverpark)

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

PROPERTY

Building a model community for Filipino soldiers

ARTIST'S perspective of the two-story Clubhouse

By Charles E. Buban

MILITARY housing built decades ago and perennial budget constraints have left the country's soldiers and their family with homes that are out of date for today's military families.

"The AFP leadership recognizes the importance of a soldier's quality of life and for several years we have taken steps to correct this long-standing problem," says Rear Admiral Mateo Mayuga, AFP deputy chief of staff for personnel and vice chair of AFP housing board.

To prove his point, the admiral cites the currently biggest housing project for soldiers that the AFP and the Department of National Defense has jointly undertaken with three housing agencies of the government: the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) and the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund).

"The Bonifacio Heights is a P1.7-billion off-base military housing project being developed by DMCI Homes for the benefit of our soldiers and their family. It sits on a seven-hectare property, which will be home to over 2,000 families," describes Mayuga.

Blueprint

DMCI Homes president Isidro Consunji considers his latest project very important for his company since Bonifacio Heights will serve as blueprint for other housing projects that the AFP and the Department of National Defense will undertake in the near future.

Bonifacio Heights is among the seven off-base housing sites declared and approved by the President Macapacal-Arroyo for the soldiers and their families.

Now being prepared are sites in Cagayan de Oro City, Camp Aquino in Tarlac, Camp Riego de Dios in Trece Martirez, Cavite (now ready for awarding to AFP beneficiaries), Camp Trio in Cabanatuan City, Camp Lapu-Lapu in Cebu City and Fort del Pilar in Baguio City.

"Not only that, Bonifacio Heights must serve as a model for these other sites as well as other developers as to how to make a project affordable to its targeted market (price ranges from P622,000 to P1.049 million) and still provide amenities and lifestyle that are mostly enjoyed in much bigger—and more expensive—developments," explains Consunji.

Gated community

Inside this gated community composed of 17 five-story condominiums are

BUILDING/ B2-1

COURTYARDS
OF
Portofino

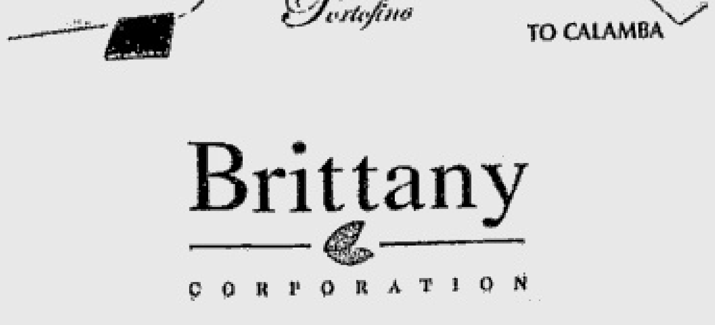
Un Segreto è All'interno
(INSIDE, A SECRET LIES IN WAIT.)

An intriguing secret is tucked inside the homes at Courtyards of Portofino...an enchanting room, where sunny skies and starry nights serve as nature's canopy; a private place for friends and family. This is your very own courtyard, and it's right inside your home.

Inspired by classic Italian design, Courtyards of Portofino brings home charming Old World archways, cupolas, vivid sun-drenched colors and best of all, quaint, uniquely Italian courtyards. Moreover, the courtyard homes surround grand courtyards across the enclave of Courtyards of Portofino.

Discover the secret, experience the enchantment of Courtyards of Portofino.
850 2868 • 850 6986 • www.brittany.com.ph

Brittany
CORPORATION



Make room to pray

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

TWO clients had already asked me to include a prayer room in the architectural design of their new houses. Far from being surprised, their request is but expected.

More and more clients are becoming perceptive to allot a particular space where meditation and reflection are facilitated. This is a deviation from the add-on and make-shift altars we Filipinos traditionally have.

We are now gearing toward having artistically designed prayer rooms. With the whirlwind of daily activities that we engage in, one gasps for a moment of silence. We need to capture these precious pauses by making room to pray and literally speaking, making a room for prayer.

Characteristics

Prayer rooms vary in personal taste and style. But most of the prayer rooms possess the following characteristics:

- **Privacy.** Most of the successful prayer rooms first and foremost foster privacy. This is achieved by allotting a space defined for personal meditation. It can range from a small space of 4 square meters which is enough to contain cushions, book racks and an artistic reredo, to an ample space for collective meditation which allows niches to create a sense of individuality and isolation.

Privacy can come in an enclosed space that is properly ventilated or artificially cooled. Rooms opening to outdoor spaces can equally imbue a meditative setting. Outdoor spaces offer an equal opportunity for reflection. A blend of softscape and hardscape design can define a haven for those who want to transcend space and time. Locating the prayer room in a private zone of the house, considering activities of adjacent areas within and outside the property, will ensure that noise, smoke and visual distractions will be eliminated.

- **Ambiance.** While silence is the most basic and remains to be the best mode for prayer, incorporating sensible features for ambiance also contributes to the mood. Indoor or outdoor features of gushing water, ruffling of leaves and tinkling of chimes are some of the possible features where one can find a solace at any time of the day or during those particular periods of prayer.

Aside from these auditory elements, lighting design has a great role to play in visual mood setting. For prayer rooms, lighting is ambiance rather than utilitarian. It is meant to sculpt spaces and create a palette of moods. It illuminates the designer's intended artistry.

The design renders its success when illumination is achieved while the source of light remains unperceived. This is done by incorporating the lighting fixtures in the very blueprint of the architectural design with the use of cove lightings or customized diffuser and lighting housing design.

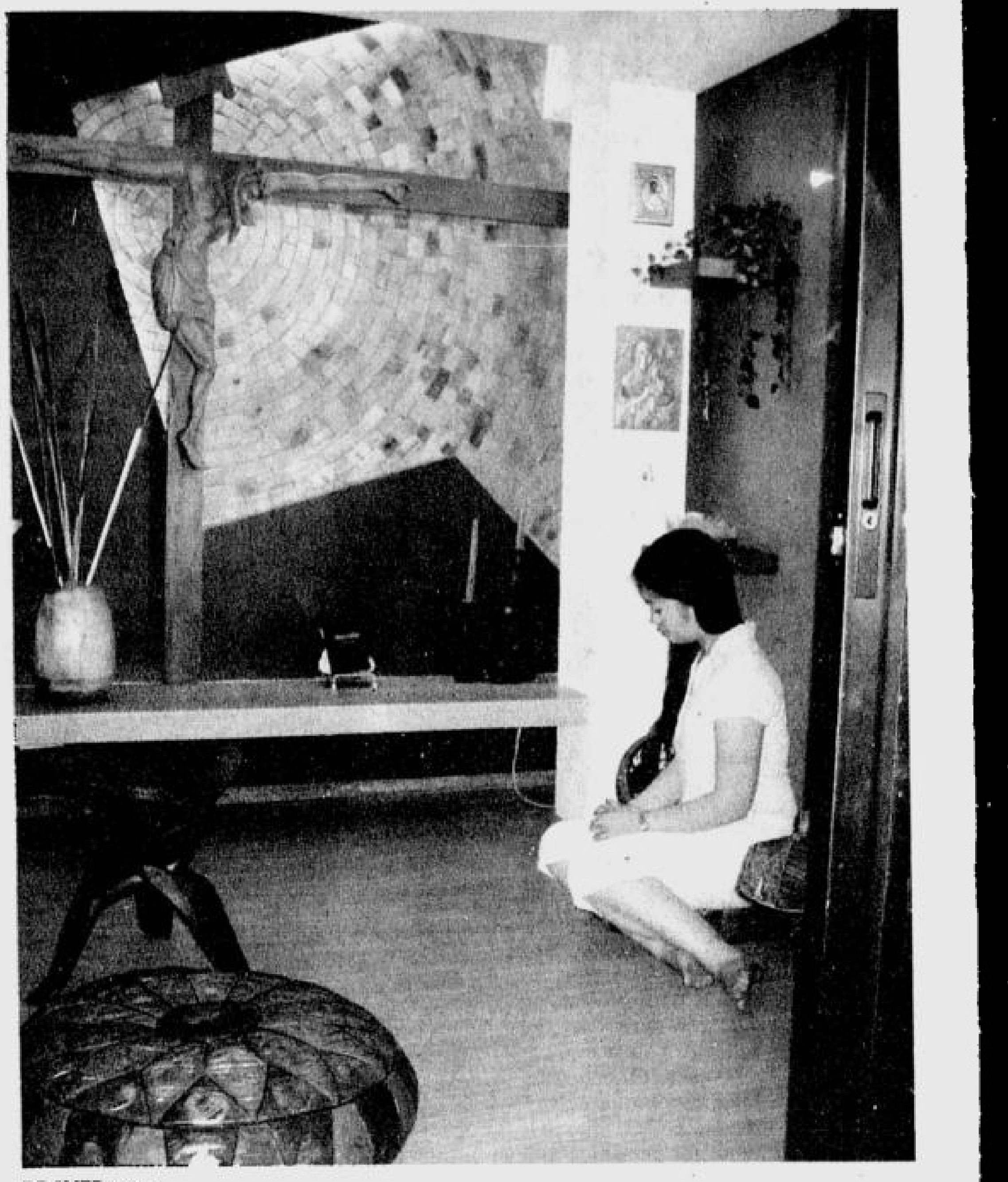
- **Artistry.** There is no limit to man's attempt to behold his Creator's splendor. That is why every sculpture, painting, carving or any artwork for that matter aims to capture the intangible divinity and translate it to a tangible beauty.

A simple cross can be sculpted in an array of materials of wood, distorted metal, glass, natural stone, clay or mixed media. Artistry is rendered in color, texture and form of materials. Earth colors are more widely used while a good choice of texture in finishes or on surfaces determines its depth and character.

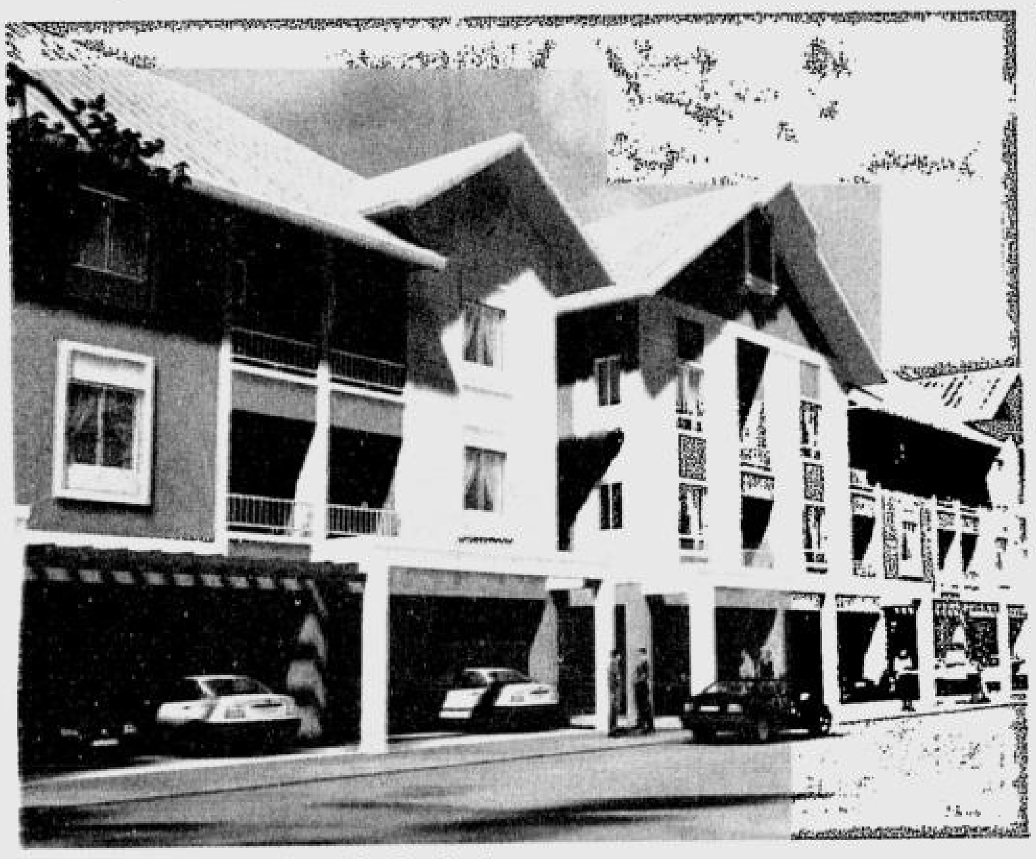
Renewal experience

Man's greatest aspirations come alive when one is able to discover his capacity to transcend himself. This renewal experience in prayer does not happen by chance. We realize that we need to set a time for this and thus, requires from us our decision more than a mere desire.

Our role as architects is to provide the setting for this experience to take place so that man can hear the gentle voice of God's calling. In the end, our client is not only the man but moreover the Divine Master of the house who is the Ultimate Architect himself.



PRAYER room



ARCHITECT'S perspective of the Quadruplex

Experiencing The Legacy at the Quadruplex

A QUIET neighborhood in the heart of the city. Convenience of urban living at one's fingertips. And space for you and your family to move and grow. All these best describe The Legacy at Montgomery Place, the newest residential development of Ayala Land Inc. on E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue in Quezon City.

And now, Ayala Land offers a new development that further enriches this exciting community with the Quadruplex at The Legacy. At the Quadruplex, one can experience the charms of living within The Legacy and being part of a community that enjoys the best of both worlds: suburban-like living amid the city's hustle and bustle.

Cracker architecture

To make unit owners fit right in and feel at home, the Quadruplex makes use of Cracker architecture, which is also characteristic of homes at The Legacy. "Cracker houses—tall, sleek houses—are typical of the American South," shares Marcos "Toti" de Guzman, the architect of the Quadruplex at The Legacy.

Says Toti: "The climate in these parts of the US is temperate and warm, and Cracker houses have high ceilings and full windows. We've brought the concept here in terms of look and function, but we've also added Filipino touches."

Rooms

The Legacy Quadruplex boasts three levels and spacious floor areas. "Cracker architecture really allows for more space for its occupants," says Toti, "particularly in the upper levels where the family room and bedrooms are." The bedrooms, for example, are given more importance than "areas for show" like the living room and foyer to provide ultimate comfort of movement.

Each room is ideal for two, but can easily fit up to four people. "The units are ideal for large-sized or growing families," notes Toti. The rooms are also flexible enough that the interior partitions may be altered to suit the individual needs of homeowners.

"Unit owners can use the rooms as places to do specific activities: they can convert one into a study or home office or as a music room or play room for the kids," says Toti.

Quadruplex

The Quadruplex is divided into two middle units and two end units. "For those who prefer to have more garden space, the end units are great choices," relates Toti. "For those who lack the green thumb, they will also be very satisfied with the middle units. And all units have very good ventilation." Because the vertical design of the Quadruplex allows for maximum use of space, there is not only more area for greenery, but also for parking. "Each of the four units of the Quadruplex can accommodate parking for two vehicles, which is very important nowadays," relates Toti.

Also, unlike other quadruplexes and townhouses, The Legacy Quadruplex gives the homeowner a sense of having a real home because "we try to make the façade of each unit different to keep up with the single-detached units in The Legacy," says Toti. Visitors to the Quadruplex even view the units as bigger than they actually are. "There is a perception that the unit owners own the whole building," muses Toti.

Ideal location

Completing the charm of the Quadruplex is its highly ideal location. Located at The Legacy within Montgomery Place in Quezon City, the Quadruplex gives its unit owners access to such exciting amenities as the clubhouse, swimming pool and courtyard—the perfect meeting places for community members young and old. Educational institutions, a state-of-the-art medical facility, shopping destinations and bustling business centers are also within reach. And yet even amid this urban hub, the Quadruplex provides the utmost in security and privacy.

The Quadruplex at The Legacy thus affords its homeowners more than just a house; each unit is a truly spacious yet affordable home in a precious community right in the heart of the city.

For more information on The Legacy Quadruplex, please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph, or e-mail ayalasales@ayalaland.com.ph.

Real estate e-commerce goes full swing

GLOBALIZATION and digitalization of real estate trading swung into full gear yesterday as Creba-GSI Inc. formally opened its offices with a preview of a pioneering Geographic Information System to complement the country's first property Internet trading facility.

Utilizing IBM's vaunted technology and ePLDT's Internet infrastructure, the eCreba Internet Portal at www.ecreba.com provides local sellers of homes and other real property cutting-edge communication and electronic documentation facilities to enable them to speedily and securely choose sales online, in real time.

Valuable info package

The eCREBA CLaSS (Comprehense Land Survey System), on the other hand, provides prospective buyers and investors a valuable package of information about a land parcel and its local environment. This gives them a better insight into the property's investment value and potentials, without having to travel all the way to the Philippines.

Value-packed as an attractive geographic information system map, ClaSS shows potential buyers, investors and lenders and project planners the accurate geo-referenced location of the property in the official Philippine map, the land's configuration and possible defects, if any, in the technical descriptions on the title and the geophysical, economic and regulatory attributes of the land and the surrounding locality.

For property sellers aiming to tap the vast global market for Philippine real property, eCreba considerably shortcuts the difficult and time-consuming processes of showcasing the pieces of property, fielding inquiries, negotiating, closing deals, effecting reservations and managing payment remittances.

Dynamic subportals

While ordinary websites are comprised of static pages designed merely for display purposes, eCreba consists of dynamic subportals, which operate as paperless, virtual corporate and marketing offices. These may be used not only by property sellers, but also by any business enterprise or organization desiring to expand its reach beyond physical borders.

While ordinary websites simply wait for Internet surfers to accidentally stumble on them, eCreba is projected to draw a steady stream of Internet traffic through targeted aggressive eCreba awareness campaigns nationwide and worldwide, and through online public service chat programs.

Serving national goals

Conceptualized and designed by experts of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and developed by ICT and geodetic engineering specialists of Geospatial Solutions Inc., the twin innovative projects under CGI's helm aim to serve broader national goals. These are to bring in much-needed foreign exchange from the sale abroad of realty packages, attract foreign direct investments, speed up project planning and implementation, showcase the tourism and investment potentials of the various localities, project to the global business community a favorable investment climate in the country and just as important, help protect and promote the interests of those who deal in real property.

More information about these projects may be secured from the newly established corporate offices of Creba-GSI Inc. at 2006-B West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Call 632-1069 and 633-8083, or e-mail marketing@ecreba.com and bamb@pldtdsl.net.

Building a model community . . .

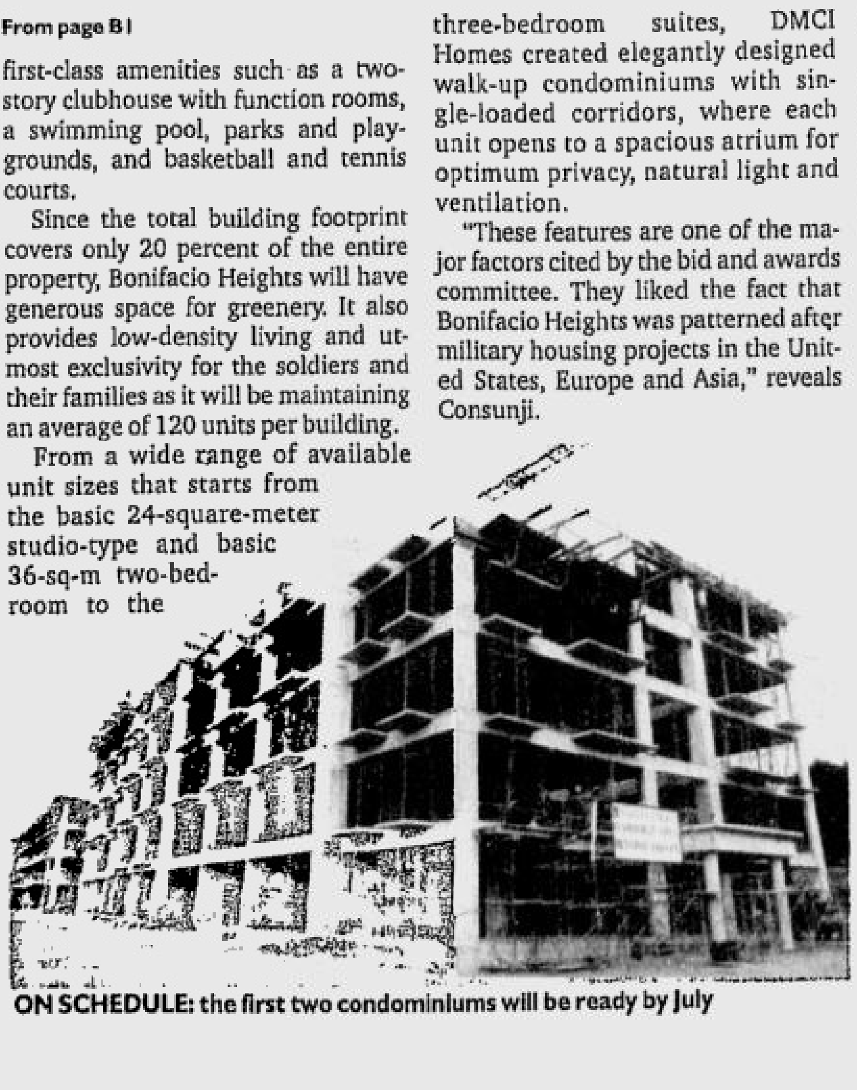
From page B1

first-class amenities such as a two-story clubhouse with function rooms, a swimming pool, parks and playgrounds, and basketball and tennis courts.

Since the total building footprint covers only 20 percent of the entire property, Bonifacio Heights will have generous space for greenery. It also provides low-density living and utmost exclusivity for the soldiers and their families as it will be maintaining an average of 120 units per building.

From a wide range of available unit sizes that starts from the basic 24-square-meter studio-type and basic 36-sq-m two-bedroom to the three-bedroom suites, DMCI Homes created elegantly designed walk-up condominiums with single-loaded corridors, where each unit opens to a spacious atrium for optimum privacy, natural light and ventilation.

"These features are one of the major factors cited by the bid and awards committee. They liked the fact that Bonifacio Heights was patterned after military housing projects in the United States, Europe and Asia," reveals Consunji.



ON SCHEDULE: the first two condominiums will be ready by July

Fully supportive

The Pag-Ibig Fund is fully supportive of the project as the agency made an exclusive and special arrangement with the AFP and the DND (100 percent loan to value ratio, meaning no equity required, as well as a nine-year extension to avail loan after retirement of soldier).

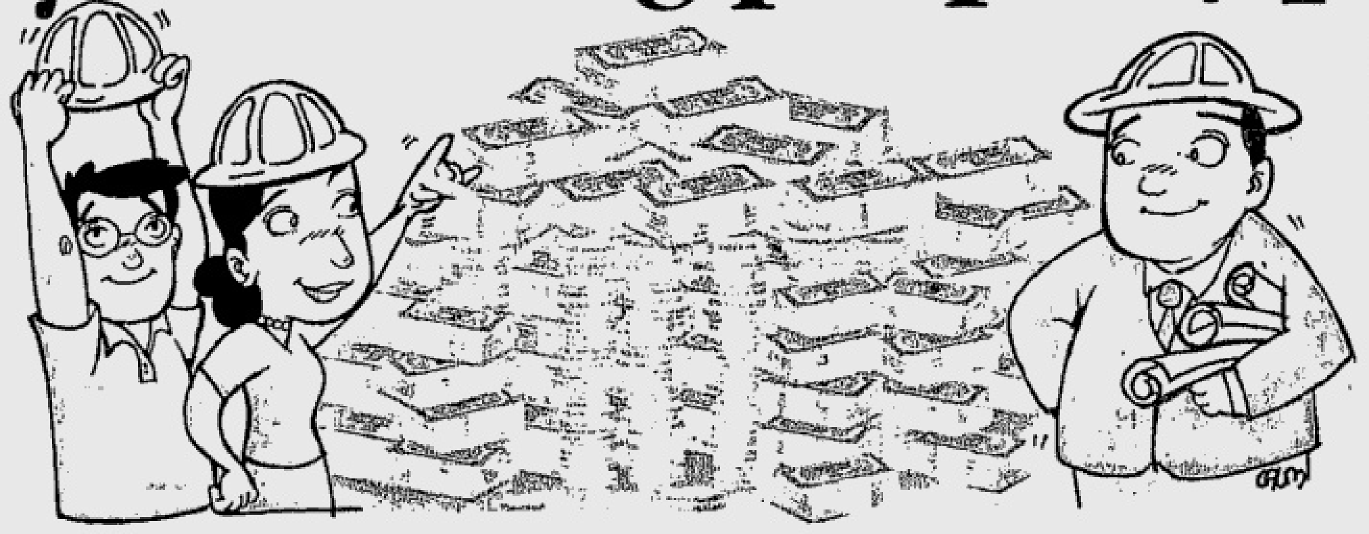
"We want this project to succeed. With the support we are extending to our soldiers, I am confident we will be able to uplift the standard of living of their families," believes Pag-Ibig Medium-Rise Building Project task force head Juanito Eje.

Says HUDCC vice chair Amado Bagatsing, "What is commendable about this particular project is that no soldier will be excluded in availing a unit at Bonifacio Heights."

"Our soldiers deserve only the best. If they are willing to serve and even die for their country, the least that the government can do for them is to provide an excellent community like this one," says Bagatsing adding that he is hopeful the project could be replicated successfully so the rest of the targeted 45,000 soldiers' families.

Phase 1, composed of two condominium buildings, of the Bonifacio Heights development is scheduled for turnover in July.

Novel way of owning property pushed



THE RECENT partnership forged between LBC, a leading consumer services company in the Philippines, and the group of businessman Enrique Moras Jr., a pioneering proponent of the "at cost" concept of owning real estate, has given birth to a novel and innovative approach that allows the safest and most affordable means of owning prime real estate in the local market.

The new entity, called LBC Comunidades Development Inc., is pushing to replicate in the Philippines the huge success of the "Comunidades" concept in Spain, where buyers become direct investors in the development of a property. In the process, the investors acquire prime real estate "at cost," eliminating the profit margins made by traditional developers.

Community spirit

"The community spirit is fundamental to Comunidades," Moras explained. "Instead of going through a third party developer, the investors pool together "community resources" so that they can enjoy quality homes for significantly below-market prices."

Moras said "community resources" refer to the traditional down payment that is regarded as capital contribution in the Comunidades scheme made by investors on a piece of real property. The funds go direct to a bank trust/escrow account under the investors' names, making it safe by providing not only capital security but interest earnings as well.

Easiest terms of payment

"Comunidades also offers the easiest terms of payment because only interest on a percent of the project's accomplishment is due monthly. Funds from the loan representing the 70 percent balance of investors are only drawn progressively from the bank as the development moves on," he said.

The units in Comunidades projects are likewise made affordable through architectural and design approaches that optimize the use of space in each of them, all adding up to a sensibility that fits every budget," Moras explained.

Unit title turnover

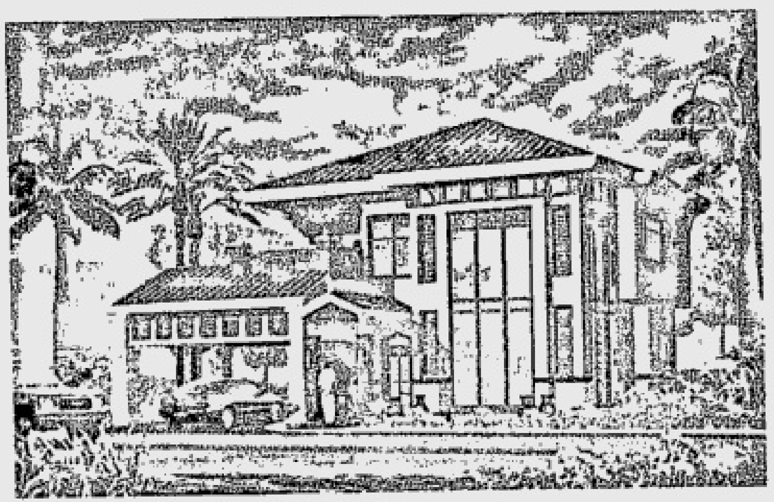
As Comunidades projects wind down to completion and project draw downs are settled, the unit titles are turned over to investors, who can make customized arrangements with the bank for the settlement of the loan balance.

The prestigious outfit of JT Mañosa and Associates was the architectural firm commissioned in the construction of Parque Espana, the successful LBC Comunidades high-end residential condominium project at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang.

At turnover, investors at Parque España were delighted to have collectively received P40 million from LBC Comunidades because the project was completed even below the "at cost" projections, thus the windfall.

"These are the distinctive characteristics which make the Comunidades 'at cost' concept truly the safest, easiest and most affordable alternative to owning a piece of prime real property anywhere," Moras said.

LBC Comunidades is set to launch another project, the 12-story Vida Legarda condominium on Legarda street in Manila. For more details on how to benefit from the Comunidades idea, interested parties may call (02) 890-6265 or 890-6326.



ONE of the South Forbes Mansions

Seeing the whole world in 1 place

MANY individuals dream of seeing the whole world. Lucky are those who have the finances, time and companions to embark on this once-in-a-lifetime journey. During such a trip, they will get to appreciate the culture, history, architecture, cuisine and people of different nations.

The romantic atmosphere of the Mediterranean Coast, the relaxing destination of Bali and the spiritual allure of Japan are just some of the experiences waiting for one to discover.

As the new, world-class satellite city dubbed South Forbes Golf City rises in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Filipino urbanites can now opt to see—and live among—modern architecture inspired by famous global cities. Filipinos can soon see the best of world architecture in one place: South Forbes Golf City.

Exclusive neighborhoods

One by one, South Forbes Golf City's exclusive neighborhoods will rise, representing the distinct architecture of three continents.

Europe served as the inspiration of the South Forbes Villas, which exudes a rustic atmosphere in its contemporary Mediterranean homes. The Oxford Manors offers residents a modern take on Victorian architecture for their homes. Last, the Country Chateaus gives the elite a chance to own elegant, ostentatious homes inspired by French architecture.

Asia is the focal point of the three South Forbes Mansions communities. The first, the Bali Mansions, is best for those who desire relaxing, Zen-type interiors with wood and water as the main elements. The Shanghai Mansions, on the other hand, showcases strong flavors in Chinese modern-architecture—a distinctive melding of Eastern and Western influences. Last, the Kyoto Mansions allows residents to bask in an atmosphere of Japanese-style serenity every day.

Not to be left out, North American architecture, specifically Florida, inspired the Miami Towers. These glitzy glass-adorned residential buildings offer modern amenities and conveniences that true urbanites have come to expect over the years. While it may not be a residential community, the Harvard Square derives its strong New England influences from America's premier educational institution. Lastly, the South Forbes Cyberpark teems with glass skyscrapers reminiscent of modern office towers of North American cities.

In line with design theme

Renowned masterplanner Palafox & Associates made sure that residents don't have to travel far and wide to enjoy this city's various amenities. Thus, Palafox designed each South Forbes neighborhood to have its own main clubhouse, strategically located pocket parks with amenities for the residents' convenience, lush tropical landscaping and entry statements all consistent with the design theme.

"This gives each neighborhood a distinct sense of community and architecture—a different world in their own right," said Lawrence Santos of SC&A Architects, which was tapped by Cathay Land to interpret the architectural details of the masterplan.

TOPPING-OFF
CONVERGYS

CONVERGYS BUILDS R.P. HEADQUARTERS
Convergys Corp., the world's largest integrated billing and customer services provider, in cooperation with Ayala Land Inc. recently topped off its Philippine headquarters on Ayala Avenue, Makati. Set for completion by yearend, the eight-story building will house corporate offices as well as contact center operations with 1,500 seats. Shown during the topping-off rite are Convergys VP and country manager Marife Zamora, general manager for offshore operations Dennis Ross, left, and Convergys EVP for global customer management and employee care Steve Rolls.

BRENTVILLE
INTERNATIONAL
MAMPLASAN, BIÑAN, LAGUNA

Prominence II Townhouse

Brentville Main Clubhouse

Children's Playground

A fully completed world-class development.

Move in anytime at Brentville International, a fully developed community that has everything you need for a lifetime of luxurious living.

It features world-class facilities like a wide four-lane main road, underground electrical and communication facilities, well-designed clubhouse and amenities, and unique cluster-homes and single detached units.

Brentville lot buyers will enjoy access to Brent International School amenities.

Expatriates can also have their own homes at Prominence II, the unique manor-like cluster homes inside Brentville plus privileged access to The Palms Country Club in Filinvest Corporate City.

So come to Brentville International right now, where everything is in place and just waiting for you to make it your home.

807-6907 · 807-5511
www.brentville.com

How to get there: Brentville International is only 10 minutes away from Filinvest Corporate City. From the South Luzon Expressway, take the Mamplasan Exit. Turn left from the toll gate and you will find Brentville International

All images are actual photos taken from the site.

FILINVEST
INVEST ON SOLID GROUND

Favorable office layouts

By Dianne M. Villafuerte

FENG SHUI

THE FIRST thing that usually strikes us upon entering an office for the first time is its layout. Normally, desks and workstations are arranged in such a way to maximize the office's space, especially if there is no choice but to squeeze an entire department of nearly 50 people into one floor.

Zaihong Shen, feng shui practitioner and writer, gives us some insights on positive and unlucky office layouts.

A desk that is positioned in such a way that the person occupying that desk has his or her back against the wall is considered favorable. The desk is said to benefit from high exposure to the positive chi (energy) that circulates inside the room. At the same time, the wall serves as protection for the person using the desk.

Feng shui theory regards natural sunlight as bringers of good and helpful chi and because windows let in natural light, it is considered ideal to place a desk facing a window.

Plants

Shen also encourages placing a plant in the southeast corner of one's office. In feng shui theory, plants symbolize growth while the southeast represents wealth so a plant in the southeast portion of your room may help encourage financial growth.

One should of course make sure that the plant is kept healthy and suitable to the office's environment.

Exposed ceiling beams

Shen advises against placing a desk under an exposed ceiling beam. Exposed ceiling beams represent oppressive energy which may inhibit a person and make him or her less productive.

Beams are also believed by feng shui practitioners as obstacles to wealth. This can, however, be remedied by hanging a windchime from the beam in order to draw positive energy.

Desk arrangement

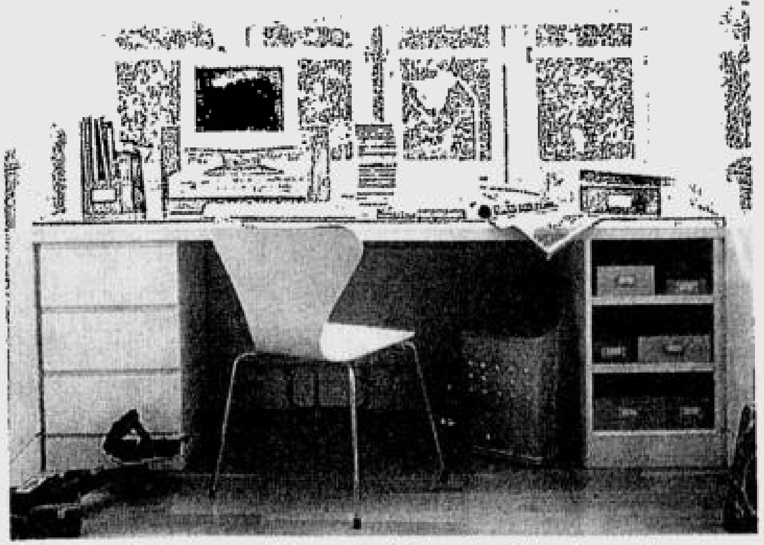
Feng shui consultants discourage arranging desks in such a way that the occupants of these desks have their backs against a window or a mirror.

This is considered unfavorable because it intimidates the persons' feelings of security and disturbs their energies.

Causing pressure

Having a light hanging directly over the head is believed to cause pressure on the person's head and shoulders. (Think of that common action movie scene where the bad guys are endlessly tormenting the good guy in a cold and grey *bodega* (storeroom), our hero sitting on a stool under a solitary light bulb swaying menacingly over the protagonist's head.)

Shen suggests putting a lamp at least two feet in front of you, on the side of your nondominant hand.

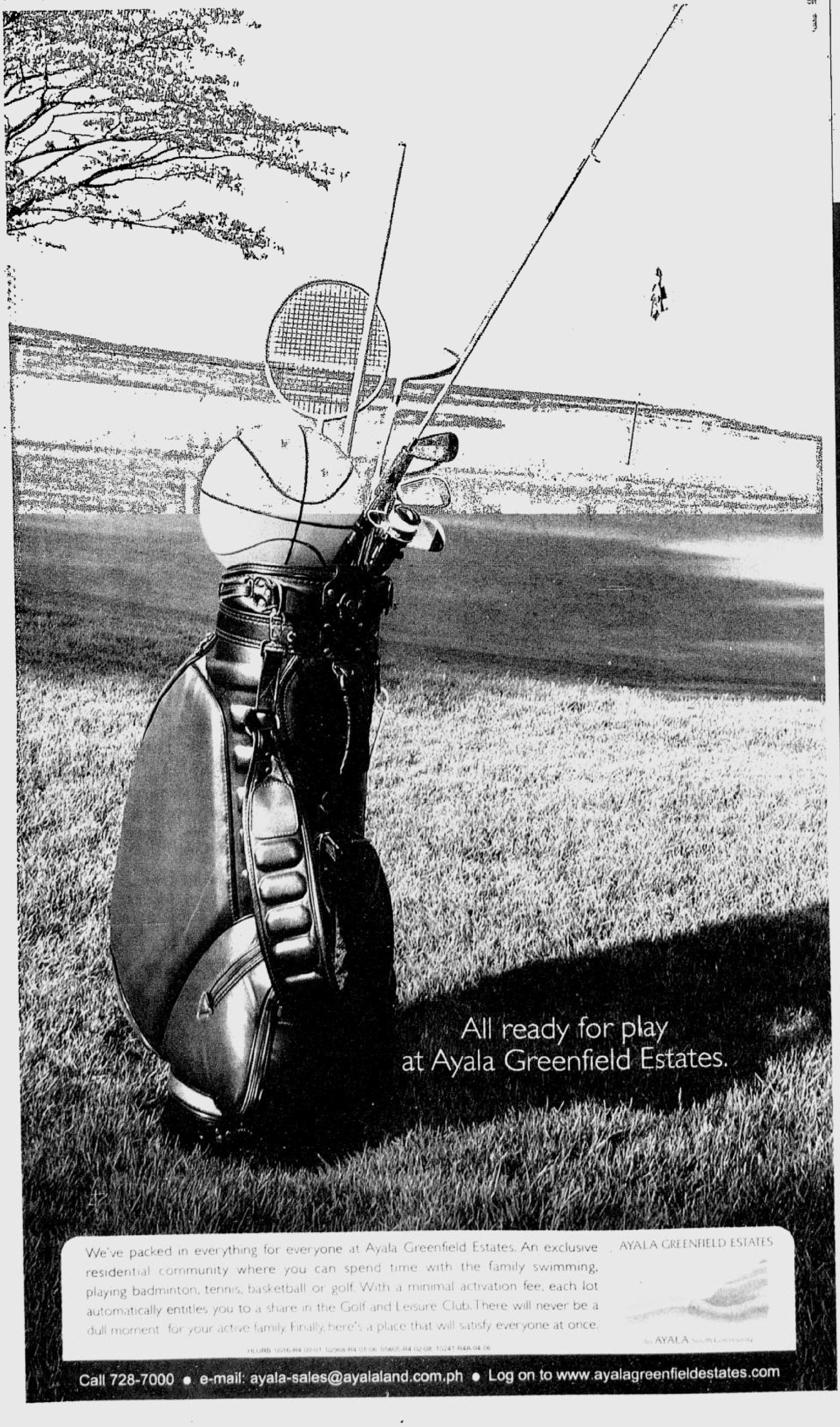


NATURAL light from windows are believed to bring favorable energy into the workplace.

A desk in a conference room or other communal area is also considered inauspicious. A busy and noisy space definitely makes it hard for the employee occupying that desk to concentrate on his or her work.

If there is no other area where the employee can be relocated, the employer should at least be considerate enough to place a screen or a cubicle around the desk to give the poor guy a sense of privacy.

Email comments at fengshui.inquirer@gmail.com.



All ready for play
at Ayala Greenfield Estates.

We've packed in everything for everyone at Ayala Greenfield Estates. An exclusive residential community where you can spend time with the family swimming, playing badminton, tennis, basketball or golf. With a minimal activation fee, each lot automatically entitles you to a share in the Golf and Leisure Club. There will never be a dull moment for your active family. Finally, here's a place that will satisfy everyone at once.

AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES

Call 728-7000 ● e-mail: ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph ● Log on to www.ayalagreenfieldestates.com

Block off your summer
and head to

AYALA
GREENFIELD
ESTATES

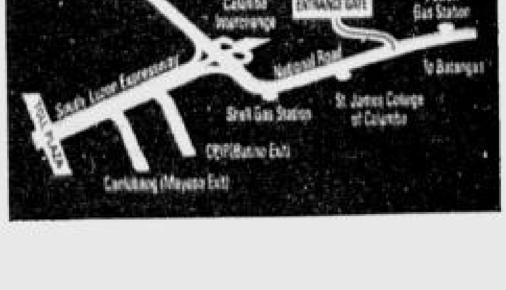
We've lined up different activities at the Nature Park and Village Clubhouse. Other amenities are also available for use on these dates. So whatever the family is into, you're sure to have fun under the sun.

APRIL
3
Camping Clinic

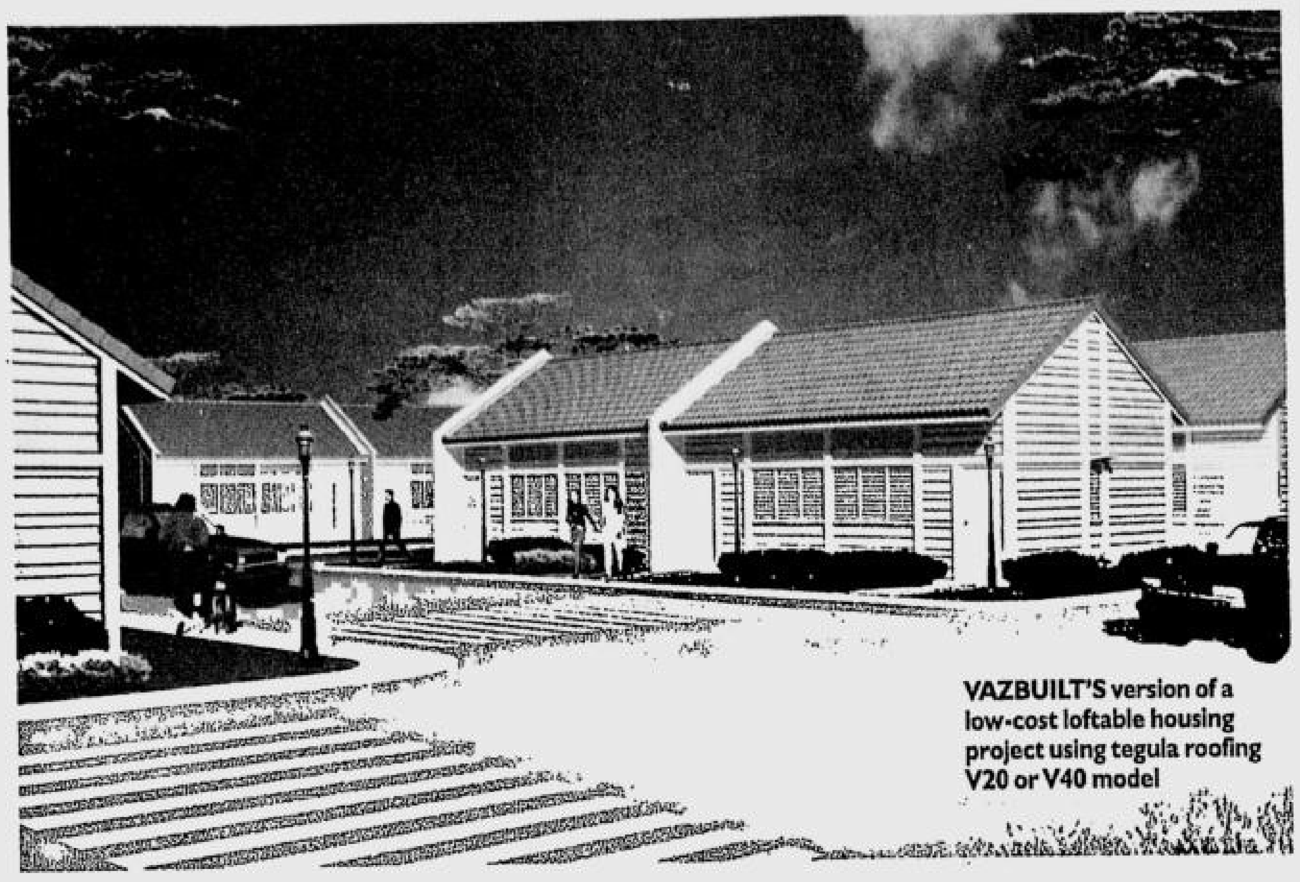
APRIL
10
Kite Flying

APRIL
17
RC Planes

APRIL
24
Paintball



PROPERTY



VAZBUILT'S version of a low-cost loftable housing project using tegula roofing V20 or V40 model

Filipino inventor lays options for houses of all costs

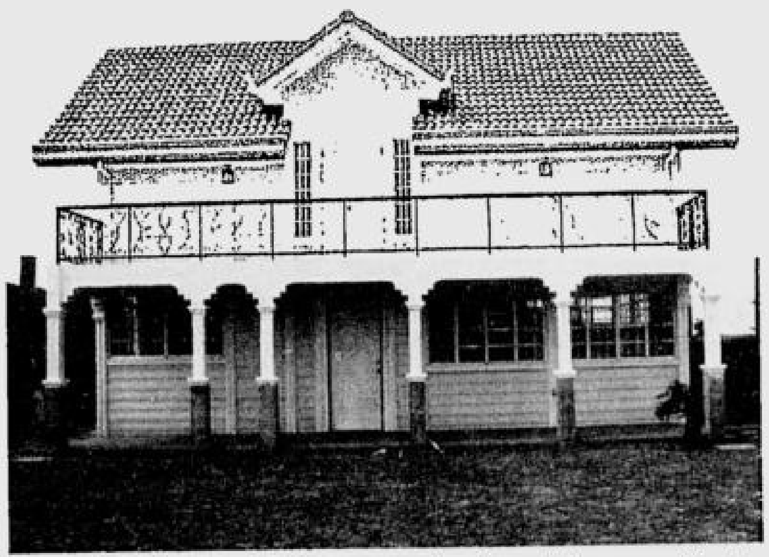
Vasquez has created a construction technology that can be applicable to all types and price range of houses

By Tessa R. Salazar

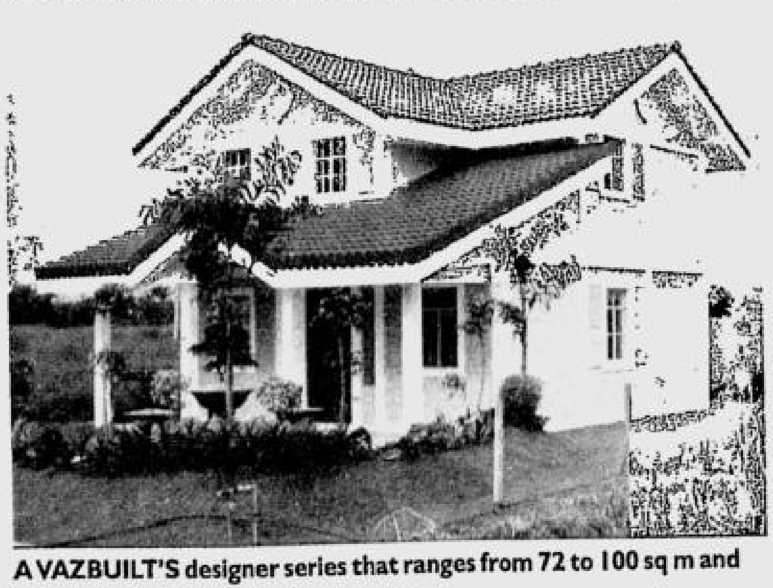
A 24-SQUARE-METER abode that costs less than P50,000, a 36-sq-m house worth P180,000, or a P5-million, 250-sq-m mansion. Filipino inventor Gary Vazquez said he created a construction technology that can be applicable to all types and price range of houses.

Vazbuilt is a patented Filipino prefabricated modular housing system, invented by nationalist inventor Edgardo G. Vazquez. Vazbuilt housing technology earned for him the "World Intellectual Property Award" in November 1995 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Vazbuilt uses prefabricated technology on a wide range of projects, from mass housing and commercial building projects to the manufacture of construction components.



ANOTHER Vazbuilt designer series outlined by well-known architects has a floor area of 150 sq m and up. Its price is P2.5 million and up.



A VAZBUILT'S designer series that ranges from 72 to 100 sq m and costs about P1.5 million.

VAZQUEZ'S socialized housing project, a 20-sq-m row house that starts from P90,000.

Social housing design

Last month at the Worldbex construction trade show, Vazbuilt launched its design for a socialized housing—a house in a community concept complete with pavers, soft landscape and prefab fences.

Vazquez reasoned out that his company wanted to uplift the home lifestyle of that level to a level of dignity of home ownership.

Vazbuilt's Lilibeth Vazquez Legasto recounted that much to their surprise, interested buyers from all levels of society accepted the technology.

Said Legasto: "From the rich to the working class, they agreed it is a decent, affordable and durable house at 2,500 psi. Quite a number of local government units (LGUs) and Gawad Kalinga took fancy to it and have given their intention to use it in their communities. They find the system a better alternative compared to the foreign systems achieving the same cost but using our pre-manufactured panels, post and columns, assuring quality, and low overhead in construction management."

Bringing down the cost

Vazbuilt openly shares its technology with them by way of putting up local satellite manufacturing stations to bring down freight cost and to generate jobs for the locals and steer the economy.

"Aside from the sweat equity offered by future occupants of the houses, if support will be given by the steel, cement and electrical sectors, I can really say we can bring down the cost of the house to lower than P50,000," he said.

He said that at present, there has been no indication of total cooperation from the said sectors. Thus, the Vazbuilt technology can only bring down the cost of technology and related materials.

"We're not after big margins anymore, but margins that will only be enough to sustain our people in the office who need to earn on a daily basis," he said.

If widely used in the Philippines, the Vazbuilt technology would be able to export affordable technologies to Asian countries that were hardest hit by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

Meanwhile, another housing project for farmers in Nueva Ecija launched a few years ago, features one-story houses that are concrete-based, and touted to be typhoon-resistant designed in a Spanish-European look. The roofs are made of concrete tiles manufactured by Vazbuilt.

The two-bedroom bungalow-type units have floor areas of 36 sq m. The unit height is four meters, and a provision for a second floor is available. Each unit costs P180,000.

Materials used by Vazquez are prefabricated concrete panels supported by steel trusses. He said the roof is so tough it is considered bulletproof, rustproof and maintenance-free.

Pride factor

Vazquez said that in building houses, one should consider the "pride factor."

"Does it give pride to the Filipino?" Vazquez asked. "If I can see my housing technology from Aparri to Jolo, then I will be one happy Filipino," he said.

He added: "Are Filipinos that short of ideas already that we need foreigners to tell us what type of housing technology that we need?" he said.

Vazquez said that likewise, there are fac

FILIPINO/ B3-2

One man's dream is to house thousands wisely.

"To lower the prices of decent condominium homes...to make it affordable to the emerging new generation that is our hope for the future."

This is the call Master Architect Gilbert C. Yu, founder and chairman of G&W Project Development Consultants, has decided to heed. And he has made it his moral and social responsibility to make sure that those who spend their hard-earned money in achieving one of their lifelong dreams will not be at the losing end of the bargain.

It all began in 1971, in a small, downtown office in Manila. There were three people who comprised the entire staff of Gilbert C. Yu and Associates. And later on, when Gilbert Yu was joined by his brother, the firm was renamed Gilbert C. Yu & Willie C. Yu Architects and Associates. Today, with over 30 years of experience under its belt, it is now better known as G&W Architects, Engineers and Project Development Consultants, and is considered one of the top firms of its kind in the Philippines.

Presently, the firm is a full service organization with interests in architecture, interior design, engineering and project management services. It currently has 5 offices in Metro Manila and one each in Hong Kong, Xiamen and Shanghai, China. And, it also has a staff of over 200 - a far cry from the 3 they originally started out with.

G&W is the firm behind such familiar buildings as Insular Life Corporate Center, SM in Sucat and Bicutan, Landmark Shopping Mall in Makati, Embassy Pointe, Manila Diamond Hotel, Immaculate Conception Academy, Xavier School, Evercrest Golf Club Resort, and Multinational Bancorporation Centre, among others.

But perhaps its biggest contribution to the housing and construction industry is a new method called the Build-To-Own (BTO) System. This new and innovative way of providing condo units was largely patterned after our neighboring Asian countries. Comparing the BTO system with the conventional method of buying a condo unit from a middleman developer reveals the latter's flaws. Architect Yu explains, "The present method of building homes and selling it to buyers is outmoded, inefficient, overpriced, over-borrowed and is selling mortgaged properties with no protection to the buyer. People who continue to push the old method of providing condos are totally forgetting that the main purpose of building homes is to house people comfortably and in the best locations, while keeping it at a price that they can afford." For Architect Yu, the BTO system is the best remedy for most of the shortcomings the real estate industry has imposed on the buyer during the mid-90's.

The main difference between the new BTO system and the conventional method is the elimination of the middleman developer. Why buy from a middleman developer when you can directly hire the same professionals that these middleman developers use on their projects? With the middleman developer eliminated, its corresponding overhead, marketing expenses and executive fees will be too, saving the buyer as much as 40% from the usual cost of buying a condo. What most condo needers do not understand is that when buying from a middleman developer, Php 40.00 of every Php 100.00 that they pay will go to expenses that are unrelated to building their condominium unit! With the new BTO system, buyers are given the opportunity to own prime, first-class, real estate property in the likes of Bonifacio Global City at 40% less than what it would normally cost, with even better quality, as evident in their Penhurst Parkplace project. Furthermore, BTO also protects the buyer from having his payments diverted to other purposes that are non-related to building their unit. This is because each unit owner deposits his payments directly to a depository and disbursement bank which is under the strictest orders to use the funds only for the project for which it was originally intended.

A perfect example of a first-rate property which successfully employed the Build-To-Own system is Penhurst Parkplace in Fort Bonifacio. Managed by G&W, the project started in 2002 and was finished in 2004, taking much shorter than the usual 5-7 years of pre-selling and construction as promised by the middleman developer. As of July of 2004, unit owners have already moved in and begun using their units. On the other hand, other condo projects in the area, which started at almost the same time as Penhurst Parkplace, are still far from being completed.

With the new BTO system, the real estate industry will never be the same again. And to ensure that it changes only for the better, Architect Yu has made it his personal commitment to see to it that this new method will prevent speculators from penetrating the real estate and housing industry in order to make housing affordable for the people who really need it. Architect Yu's passion is to make his company's expertise directly benefit the Build-To-Own unit owner. That's why he's laying his and his company's name and reputation on the line to make sure that the Build-To-Own unit owners get what they pay for at the time it was promised. After all people who need houses shouldn't be made to wait 5-7 years for theirs. Now, isn't that what building homes is all about?

Architect Gilbert C. Yu

PENHURST PARKPLACE

A Build-To-Own project in Bonifacio Global City

G&W Architects Engineers
Project Development Consultants

Widest long-span bridge

AMAZING STRUCTURES

THE WORLD'S widest long-span bridge is the Sydney Harbour Bridge in Australia. Measuring 1,650 feet long and 1,600 feet wide, it carries two railway tracks, eight lanes of roadway, a bicycle track and a walk lane. The bridge was made open to the public on March 19, 1932.

Fondly referred to by the locals as "Coathanger," it is one of Australia's most famous and photographed landmarks.

The steel arch, the top of which rises and falls about 180 millimeters whenever there are changes in temperature, also happens to be the world's largest steel arch (although not the longest) with the top of the bridge having a height of 439.62 feet above the harbor.

Another interesting fact is that 272,000 liters of paint were required to give the extensive bridge its initial three coats.

Tourists can avail of the bridge-climbing tour which promises a fascinating view of Sydney.

Dianne M. Villafuerte

Brittany launches metro south's Island Park

CREATIVE Post's Pinky Cruz designs charming and warm interiors, capturing the island resort feel.

A HAVEN of tropical luxury exists in the metro south yet secluded from its usual aggravations. A rare find for affluent urbanites offering escape from Metro Manila's trying environment of ceaseless pollution, heaving traffic and densely populated neighborhoods.

This is Island Park, the recently launched community by real estate maverick Brittany Corp.

Strategic site

Island Park's attraction starts with its strategic site. Located in Dasmariñas, Cavite, the tropical paradise is a convenient 30-minute drive from Alabang via multilane Daanghari (also called the Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Laguna-Cavite Link Road), which leads to Molino-Paliparan Highway. Travel time from Alabang will be cut further by 15 minutes when the new entrance on Molino-Paliparan via Island Park's commercial center opens.

The location can also be reached easily via the Coastal Road from Manila from Roxas Boulevard, or the South Luzon Expressway from Makati and Ortigas through the Southwoods and Carmona exits. Residing in Island Park is a much better option than living in more distant areas. It offers the feel of a luxury community without having to live in the far reaches of Laguna or Batangas.

Tropical island villages

Inspired by some of the world's best tropical island destinations, Island Park possesses inherent advantages, notably the magic of vast, open spaces in an unspoiled environment, plus access and proximity to the places important to you. The 100-hectare community is a collection of tropical-inspired island villages with influences derived from Caribbean, Mediterranean and Southeastern Pacific resort islands.

The ratio of open space to development areas is a generous 45:55, a feature all but impossible to find elsewhere in the metro south. Thus, the homes in Island Park are gems set amid expansive spaces and lush, landscaped greenery, with huge outdoor play areas for your children. Island villages include Montego Villas, Ibiza, Bali, Sao Paolo, Capri, Caledonia and Noumea, each revealing distinct design influences.

Sports, leisure complex

Capping the community's recent launch is the inauguration of the 2.7-hectare Paseo Park, the sports and leisure complex adjacent to Montego Villas. Paseo Park's design maximizes nature's presence, setting it apart from other facilities with a linear and unimaginative layout. Marrying vast spaces and tropical themes with foliage, Paseo Park has the feel of a sunny paradise.

Basketball, tennis and sand volleyball courts are set among trails that meander, among jogging paths, picnic areas, play parks, gazebos and an open pavilion. The complex is ensconced in a profusion of tropical trees, flowers and fountains. Soon, Island Park will open Club Island, a posh three-hectare country club where socials and other leisure activities can be held.

Alpinia, the newest model home located in Montego Villas, was also unveiled during Island Park's launch. With design influences from the Caribbean's famous Montego Bay, Alpinia has a high-ceiling, sun-drenched, three-toned hues inspired by beach sunsets, with highlights of stone cladding, mouldings, ornamental grills, keystone and other accents.

Interiors

Residents can customize home exteriors with bas relief stone railings carved into pineapple, coconut or their preferred tropical ornaments. Designed by Pinky Cruz of Creative Post, the Alpinia's interiors impart the feeling of space flowing harmoniously within.

An anteroom welcomes residents and guests. A charming dining area and a state-of-the-art kitchen provide the setting for many a pleasurable meal. In the spacious living area, a chandelier, detailed with natural fibers, creates a relaxed mood for entertaining friends.

The upper level holds a sitting area, the master's bedroom with toilet and bath, two other bedrooms, and a second toilet and bath. A powder room, maid's room with toilet and bath, utility area and two-car garage with automatic doors complete Alpinia's features.

Model homes

With a 176-sq-m floor area on a 210-sq-m lot, Alpinia is priced at P8 million. Other model homes available are Aristhea with a 210-sq-m floor area, and Dianella with a 240-sq-m floor area. All these model homes have balconies where residents can catch the morning sun or breathe the cool night air and lanais where one can lounge in a hammock amid tropical foliage.

With Island Park's inauguration, Brittany demonstrates the desirability of living in the metro south, as borne out by access routes to Alabang, Carmona, Southwoods and Greenfields.

A TROPICAL luxury granted to Island Park residents, Alpinia draws inspiration from the world's best island destinations.

INTERIORS of the island-inspired master's bedroom are highlighted with sinuous draperies and tropical ornaments.

Malate's newest residential and commercial landmark

WAKE up to picturesque mornings and spend serene afternoons gazing at the wonderful Manila Bay sunset...the Malate Crown Plaza, a 17-story premier residential and commercial condominium, offers these and more.

Situated right at the heart of Malate, the Malate Crown Plaza is at the corner of Adriatico and San Andres Streets.

Convenient access

At this vantage point of Manila's tourist belt, it provides residents convenient access to malls, schools, a church and a market.

Leisure and entertainment choices likewise abound with malls such as Robinsons Place Manila and Harrison Plaza, just a few minutes away, while Remedios Circle and its row of bars and restaurants is just around the corner.

Malate Crown Plaza is beside Malate Catholic School and near San Andres Market, Malate Church, Aristocrat Restaurant, Rajah Sulayman Park and the newly developed Roxas Boulevard Bay Walk. With all these attractions, it is truly an ideal residence where everything you need is within easy reach.

Track record

Malate Crown Plaza is the latest project of a group of seasoned businessmen and real estate developers who are driven by the vision to offer affordable homes that embody comfort, security and convenience. It is led by a group of reputable businessmen: Gregorio Tanlimco of Tanlimco Brothers, a renowned name in the sewing machine industry; Johnny Chua of Hi-Q Commercial, manufacturer of Besuto Prawn Crackers and various food seasonings; Bonifacio Quepe of Quepe Hardware and Hotel Kimberly; and William Co of ALLP Drugstore and wholesaler of pharmaceutical products.

Their previous projects include Prince Jun Condominium on Timog Avenue, Prince Gregory in Cubao and Prince David in Katipunan Avenue. Collectively, these businessmen have accumulated more than 20 years of experience in the real estate industry. Their upcoming venture will be the Crown Bay Tower, a premier 28-story residential condominium near Remedios and Adriatico Streets, also in Malate.

Features

Malate Crown Plaza features condominium residences ranging from studio-type, one-bedroom, two-bedroom to three-bedroom units. It also offers excellent amenities designed for a cosmopolitan lifestyle, including a swimming pool, badminton court, gym and sauna and a roof deck garden.

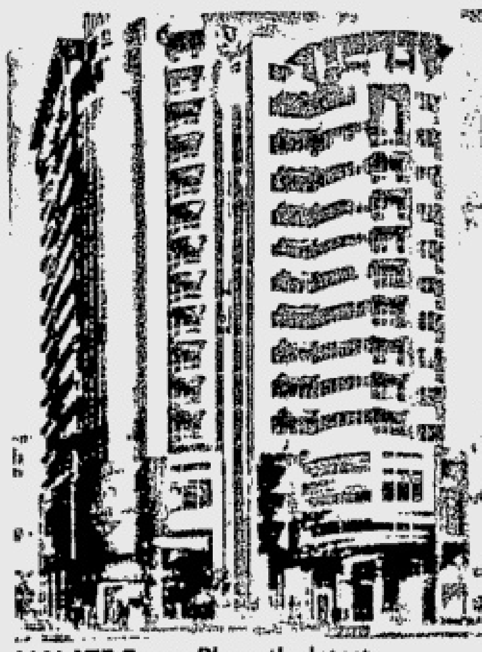
It is also equipped with a 24-hour security and CCTV monitoring system, two scenic elevators, one service elevator, a three-level parking space, a standby generator and a fire alarm and sprinkler system, among others. These features truly make it an ideal home for businessmen, middle to top executives, retirees, expatriates as well as investors in search of a secure financial decision.

Suitable for businesses

Located at the bustling corner of Adriatico and San Andres Streets, the condominium is also highly suitable for businesses and retail establishments. Commercial spaces are available at the ground floor, basement and mezzanine that would be viable for restaurants, convenience stores, coffee shops, banks, music lounge and bars, spa and fitness centers, travel and tours, among others.

Residential units are attractively priced to appeal to practical home buyers and investors. Units are priced at P1.5 million and above.

Malate Crown Plaza is now nearing completion and all units will be ready for occupancy by May 2005. For inquiries, please call (632) 245-4509, (632) 245-4832 or (0917) 530-9452. You can also e-mail them at sales@malatecrownplaza.com or visit their website at http://www.malatecrownplaza.com.



MALATE Crown Plaza, the latest condominium project of Malate Royale Development Corp., ready for occupancy by May.

Filipino inventor lays options for houses of all costs

From page B3-1

tors to consider before one imports foreign technology and materials: such as what humidity can do to steel (rust starts on the holes put on the material), and the wind speed tolerance of a house built on such a particular material—particularly in typhoons.

An imported technology can use walls with boards that are not thermal insulated, and so the house becomes a giant oven during the summer.

Vazquez has varying house models addressing all income groups. And these are all of Filipino technologies—down to the raw materials.

Structural testing

The Vazquez Building System underwent structural testing five years ago at a socialized housing project in General Trias, Cavite. Three Vazbuilt houses were given a "static load earthquake test" and passed it. The test simulated the side or lateral load/force of an earthquake. The structural tests were conducted by engineers from Robinsons Homes and Vazquez Building Systems.

Vazbuilt started designing and building middle-cost homes for developers such as Ayala Land, Robinsons and San Miguel Properties.

It moved on to sharing its technology with the retail home buyers from starter homes for newlyweds, OFWs, middle-income earners. It also tapped the needs of the low-cost market.

Through the Evaristo R.Vazquez Sr. Foundation, Vazbuilt is now arranging with interested local parties such as Tesda, and universities to teach its technology in building homes, to encourage foremen, and engineers, to be subcontractor entrepreneurs. When they graduate from the course, they will have the opportunity to build homes in the area where they live as the market demands.

Do-it-yourself house

Vazquez said his technology also promotes the do-it-yourself system. He cited four women from Baguio who built their own houses using Vazbuilt.

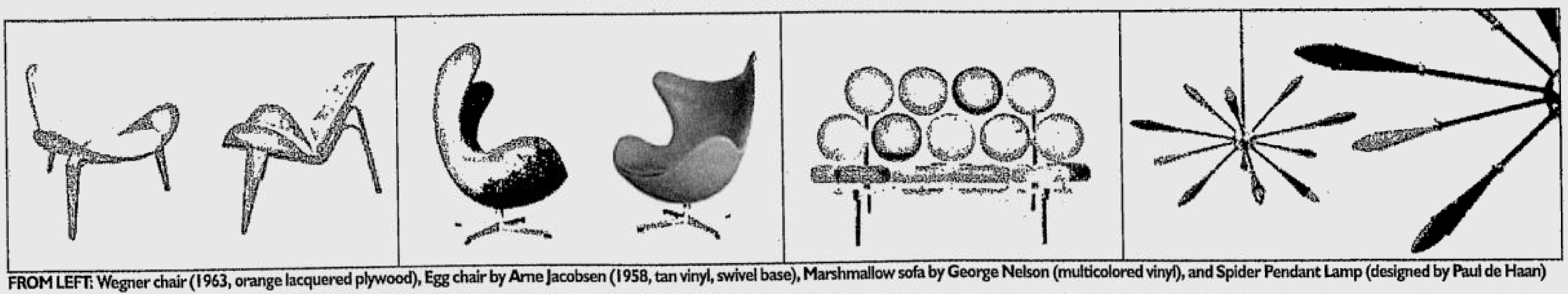
The project was completed using over-the-counter materials: posts, panels, columns, Tegula roof tiles—part by part, until the whole housing components were completed.

There were five simple designs and blueprints to follow. Vazquez's popular architect/designers (Palafox, Recio+Casas, Calma, Valdez, Carunungan) who used to "just design for the rich," also shared their talents with Vazbuilt and have made their designs available and affordable to a bigger population base.

Incorporated in 1991 by the Vazquez Group of Companies, Vazbuilt introduced what the company refers to as the "prefabricated building technology" to the Philippines.

Legasto said that the company provides a complete building system that involves the production of construction materials, design, housing and building consultancy, engineering, and construction processes.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



FROM LEFT: Wegner chair (1963, orange lacquered plywood), Egg chair by Arne Jacobsen (1958, tan vinyl, swivel base), Marshmallow sofa by George Nelson (multicolored vinyl), and Spider Pendant Lamp (designed by Paul de Haan)

The retro revisited

INTO SPACE

Pinky Cruz

JIMMY Hendrix. Queen. Planet of the Eyps. Star Wars. Eagles. Flare. ABBA. Muppetshow. Andy Warhol. Saturday Night Fever. Pink Floyd. Monthy Python. Louis de Funès. Fleetwod Mac. Discorama. BeeGees. Penthouse Live, M.A.S.H. Meatloaf. Superman. The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Darna and the Planet Women. Platform shoes. The Rolling Stones.

Shall I go on and bring more shades of pink to your face by this trip down memory lane?

I cringe at psychedelic fashion of the '70s, and in rare visits to the attic of my family's old house, I find myself oscillating from half fascination to mock horror. Here are the remnants of the past: Mom's avocado green dress, furry pillows, art noveau imitation of rattan rocking chair, Dad's album of Joni Mitchell, and vinyl bags in outrageous shiny orange and swirls.

Retro-active

Welcome back to the '70s. The height of extreme experimentation where designers and artists ran amuck with ideas, materials and expression. For some, this era was an amusing technological nightmare. Still, its force can never be ignored. For some time now '50s, '60s and '70s furniture has been back in vogue. Now plastic is fantastic and orange is the new black.

Pippa Kahn of the retro design website fearsandkahn explains, "The fact that people are using interiors from the '50s, '60s and '70s is primarily inspired by the designers of the time who were encouraged to push the boundaries of design. In order to keep up with the technological advance of materials available to them, designers evolved at twice the speed. The advance also coincided with the space race to the moon and the success of the moon landing which also unlocked other possibilities."

Retro-spective

Such is the immortality of this period that I see these posh clubs, bars and restos with an unmistakable retro touch from the wall geometrics done in two bold contrasting colors, to the use of polyurethane, vinyl or colored acrylic furniture, leather and chrome classics and psychedelic lighting techniques.

And this is not only true for commercial establishments, but for private residences as well. The cutting-edge look of the '70s is seducing a stylish crowd of homeowners.

"20th century design has emerged over the last few years due to the boredom of flat packed furniture and the natural desire for change," explains Pippa.

Retro redux

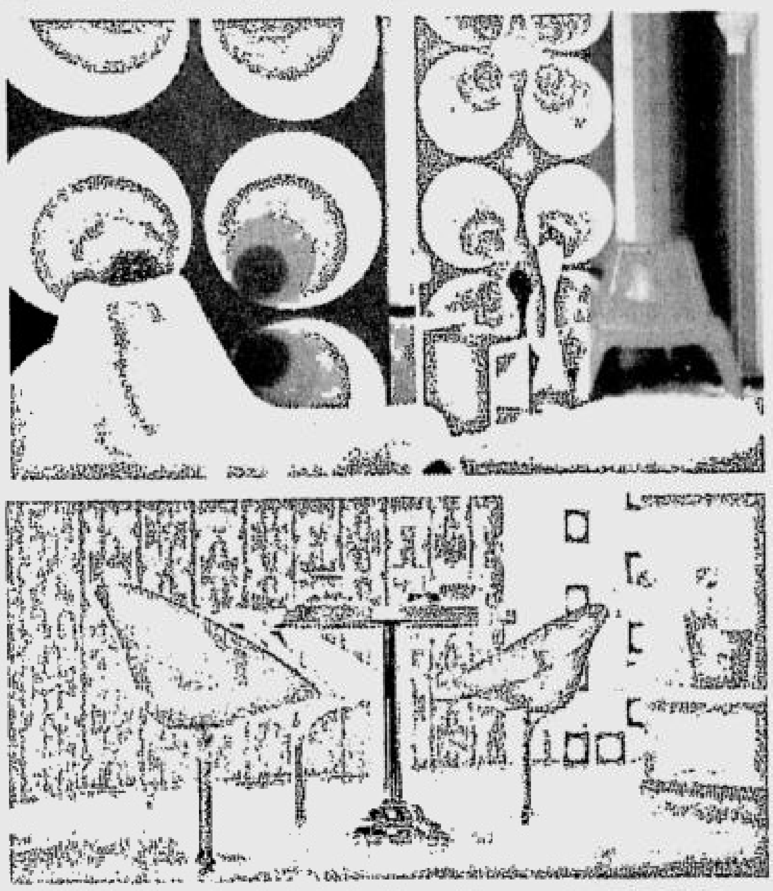
To get the most out of this retro touch, steal the colors and patterns, then use them sparingly, not redundantly.

I would go for the bright-colored swirls and optical illusions as wall highlights. Turquoise, avocado and oranges make up for a techno statement.

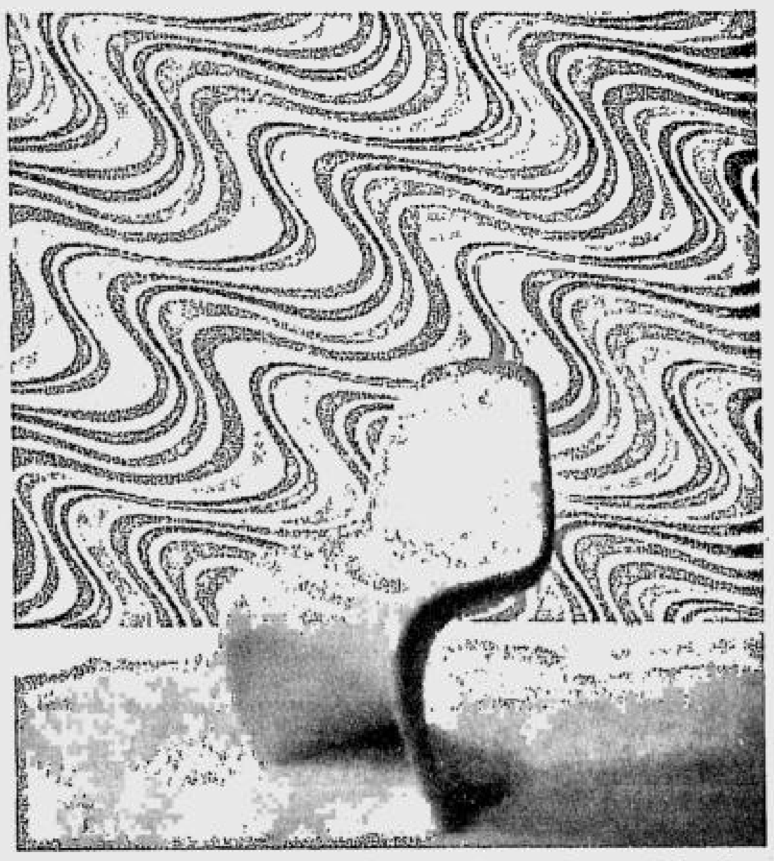
As with the sofa, texture is an important aspect of the look with cork, suede and Hessian giving the modern touch. Add a glamorous feel with faux fur and sumptuous mohair cushions, shaggy leather and suede rag rugs.

Chunky glassware, colored ceramics and rounded glass lampshades should be used more as sparse accents. Go for the most interesting curves you can find. Huge summery flowers are in vogue today, even for beddings, wall décor and other accessories.

Ultimately, the retro spirit is staying alive, setting the summer ablaze with its pageantry and sheer confidence! Go grab some of it yourself!



SHAGGY carpet, plastic chairs, bold graphic, smooth surfaces: the energy of the past fuels the future.



Your new residence in Xavierville

THE SEARCH for bliss becomes more anticipated and equally harder to find. But not anymore... As if a savior who rises high in the middle of it all, Residencia de Regina becomes the perfect representation of that blissful state. With its comfort and privacy, the search for bliss would not anymore add to your stresses.

Residencia de Regina is the first high-rise condominium of BANFF Realty and Development Corp. (BANFF), the same company that gave us the wonderful Reginaville Subdivision Series. Consistent to its mission of creating a distinctive living environment for Filipinos, BANFF breaks new ground by giving a different definition to urban living through Residencia de Regina.

Part of complete community

At Residencia de Regina, you will feel like a part of a complete community, with everything just within your reach—transportation, schools, supermarket, churches, hospitals and other commercial and recreational centers. Located in the middle of all these necessities, you can never be lost in Residencia de Regina.

But the most precious prize that you get is that in spite of feeling like a part of a community, and being in the middle of it all, you can still have the privacy of being in your own world.

From the chaos of the streets, you can be transformed into a world of sophistication and tranquility once you take your first step into Residencia de Regina. Its design presents a distinct blend of modern eclectic design that implies an innovative convergence of peaceful and comfortable living.

Residential units

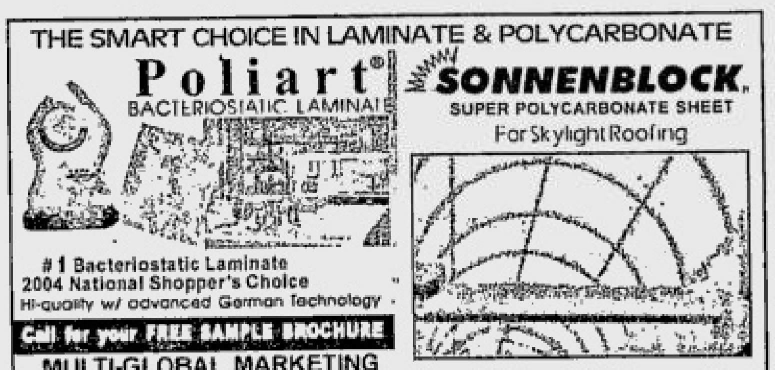
The Residencia de Regina has a total of 305 residential units, two commercial spaces and a penthouse.

Studio-type units have a floor area ranging from 24 to 26 sq m. It's a perfect space for you to enjoy by yourself or share with a companion. Two-bedroom units are the perfect home for young families. Everything seems to have a right place in it, so it is definitely what you could call a home.

With its modern facilities and features, you can be sure that you are safe and comfortable in the place. You can spend a sunny day hanging out in its beautiful lap pool or spend a rainy day slouching and watching the scenic view from your own unit. The whole structure is safe and secure with its 24-hour security command center and fire-detection system so you can just leave all your worries outside Residencia's walls.

Most of all, all these comforts you could have at a price within your means. Residencia de Regina implies that no amount of money can equal to the best things in life such as peacefulness, comfort and security. And with luxurious amenities, the good life can come at an affordable cost.

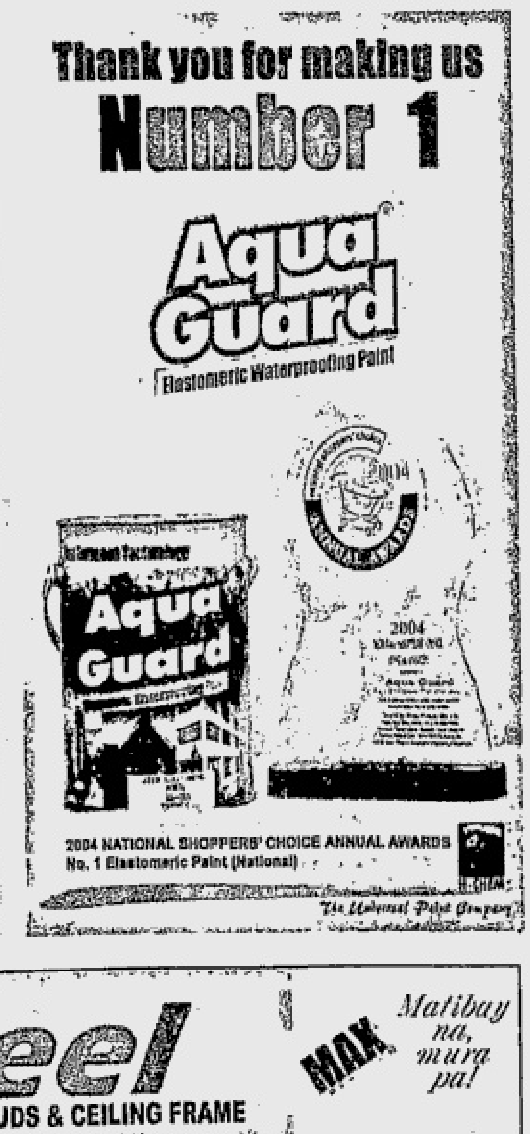
STUDIO-TYPE unit



THE SMART CHOICE IN LAMINATE & POLYCARBONATE
Poliart®
BACTERIOSTATIC LAMINATE
1 Bacteriostatic Laminate
2004 National Shopper's Choice
Hi-quality w/ advanced German Technology
Call for your FREE SAMPLE BROCHURE
MULTI-GLOBAL MARKETING
493-D Union Bldg., Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
SONNENBLOCK.
SUPER POLYCARBONATE SHEET
For Skylight Roofing
Tels. 725-5118 • 724-5808 TELEFAX 721-4525

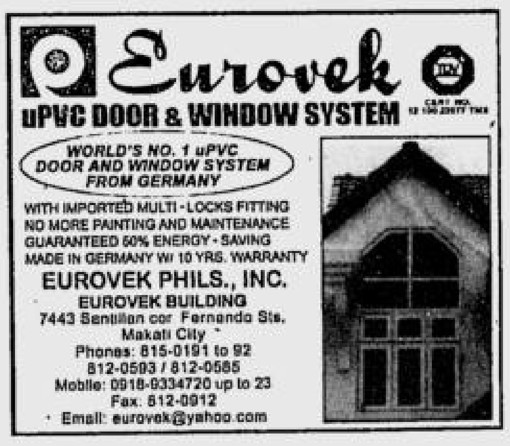
Modern Building Technology
MORTABOND® 3000
Quality Tested
Working better ways for Filipino Homes
Attn: Architects, Engineers, Builders & Contractors
PLAST-KOTE
PLASTERING GUIDE SYSTEM
Ultimate Solution For Plastering Works
Cheaper than the old system
Elegant, Easy to install & Saves time and energy
For more inquiries:
Technoresins Industrial, Inc.
Yakal St. Pleasantview Subd., Bagbaguin, Caloocan City
Tels. 983-5918 / 983-5919 / 983-9041 / 416-5635
See ad at Yellow Page " Construction "

Your Total Solution To Any Waterproofing Problem
FLEXSEAL™
Elastomeric Paint
Total waterproofing protection for walls, floors & other general waterproofing requirements
SUPERSEAL
Cementitious Waterproofing Coating
Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures
FLEXROOF
Elastomeric Roof Paint
Gloss waterproof roof paint specially made to waterproof and finish most type of roofings
From the most trusted name in waterproofing:
CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc.
1370 JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVENUE, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
Tel. # 252-0531
AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE

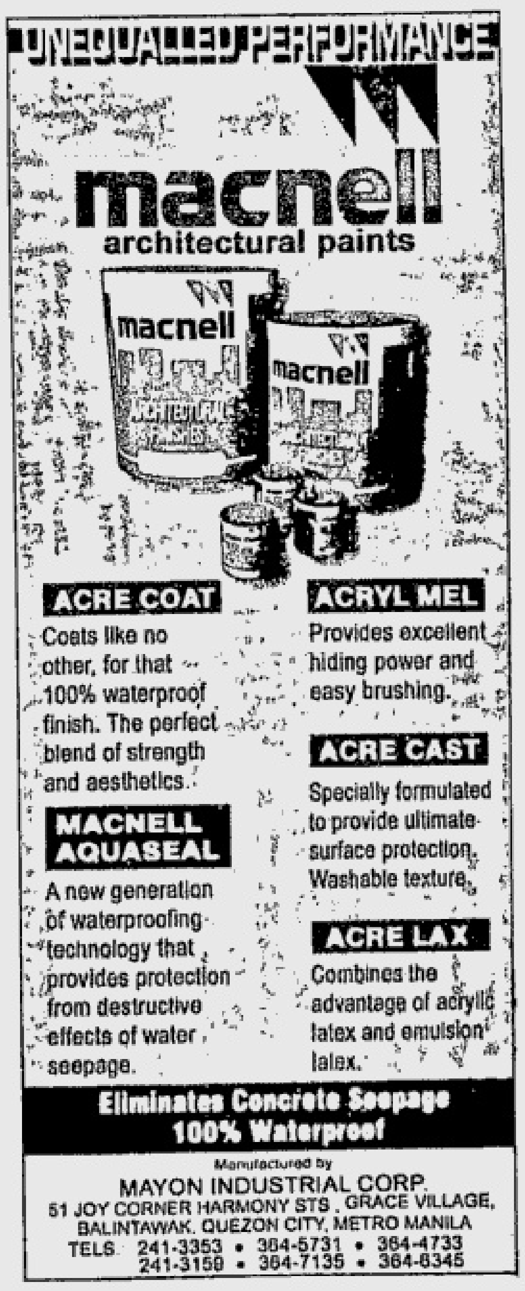


Thank you for making us Number 1
Aqua Guard®
Elastomeric Waterproofing Paint
2004 NATIONAL SHOPPERS' CHOICE ANNUAL AWARDS
No. 1 Elastomeric Paint (National)
The Universal Paint Company

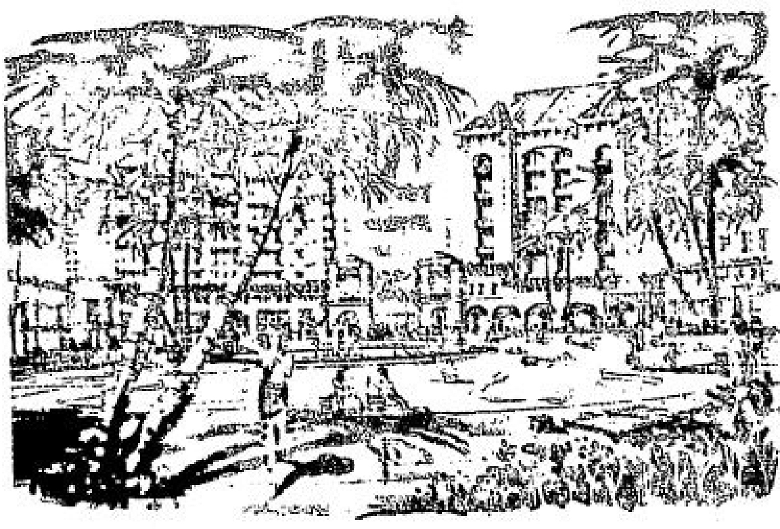
maXsteel
WALL STUDS & CEILING FRAME
MAX
Matibay na, mura pa!
METAL DRY WALL PARTITION • CEILING SYSTEM METAL FRAMING
METAL WALL TRACKS
METAL WALL STUD
DOUBLE FURRING CHANNEL 19 mm X 50mm
CARRYING CHANNEL 12mm X 38 mm
DOUBLE FURRING CLIP
V-TYPE WALL ANGLE 25 mm X 25 mm
DSGI DIATECH SUCCESS GROUP INC.
PLANT & OFFICE ADDRESS: No. 02, 190 Gen. Luis St. Novaliches, Quezon City EMAIL: diatech@info.com.ph
FOR INQUIRY CALL US AT 936-53-49, 936-75-18, 417-21-94, 419-71-77 TELEFAX 936-53-76, 419-70-07



Eurovek
uPVC DOOR & WINDOW SYSTEM
WORLD'S NO. 1 uPVC DOOR AND WINDOW SYSTEM FROM GERMANY
WITH IMPORTED MULTI-LOCKS FITTING
NO MORE PAINTING AND MAINTENANCE
GUARANTEED 50% ENERGY-SAVING
MADE IN GERMANY W/ 10 YRS. WARRANTY
EUROVEK PHILS., INC.
EUROVEK BUILDING
7443 Santillan cor. Fernando Sts.
Makati City
Phones: 815-0191 to 92
812-0593 / 812-0585
Mobile: 0918-9334720 up to 23
Fax: 812-0912
Email: eurovek@yahoo.com



UNEQUALLED PERFORMANCE
macnell
architectural paints
ACRE COAT
Coats like no other, for that 100% waterproof finish. The perfect blend of strength and aesthetics.
ACRYL MEL
Provides excellent hiding power and easy brushing.
MACNELL AQUASEAL
A new generation of waterproofing technology that provides protection from destructive effects of water seepage.
ACRE CAST
Specially formulated to provide ultimate surface protection. Washable texture.
ACRE LAX
Combines the advantage of acrylic latex and emulsion latex.
Eliminates Concrete Seepage
100% Waterproof
Manufactured by
MAYON INDUSTRIAL CORP.
51 JOY CORNER HARMONY STS., GRACE VILLAGE,
BALINTAWAK, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA
TELS. 241-3353 • 364-5731 • 364-4733
241-3159 • 364-7135 • 364-6345



South Forbes Golf City: A 2020 Vision

It is with passion and commitment to building a bigger, grander, new "satellite city" that Cathay Land President Jeffrey Ng approaches their South Forbes Golf City development project. Sprawling 250 hectares over rolling hills, bordered by free flowing creeks, and gifted with a verdant natural environment, South Forbes Golf City is one of the biggest property developments in the country.

Indeed, South Forbes Golf City's first residents, company tenants, and commercial business owners will have that grand opportunity to see the new city rise and more importantly, play an active role in shaping its future.

Fifteen years down the road, in 2020, office buildings and cyberparks for call centers and I.T. ventures will dot South Forbes' very own primary arterial road, much like what Makati's Ayala Ave. is today. Nearby, commercial areas will rise: restaurants will cater to gastronomic desires, leisure centers will entertain guests, and sports hubs will enamor those who lead a healthy, active lifestyle. Meanwhile, schools, hospitals and places of worship are just around the corner.

After a full day's work or a quick workout at the gym, people don't have to go far to call a place home. The South Forbes Golf City Mansions suits those who have earned glittering success. With its Asian-Balinese concept, business-minded individuals can rejuvenate their senses in the Mansions' palatial and relaxing interiors. The South Forbes Golf City Villas are also an excellent choice. These Mediterranean-inspired homes allow adequate space to raise growing families amidst a natural setting. Lastly, select condominium towers will cater to city dwellers who prefer conveniences and utmost security.

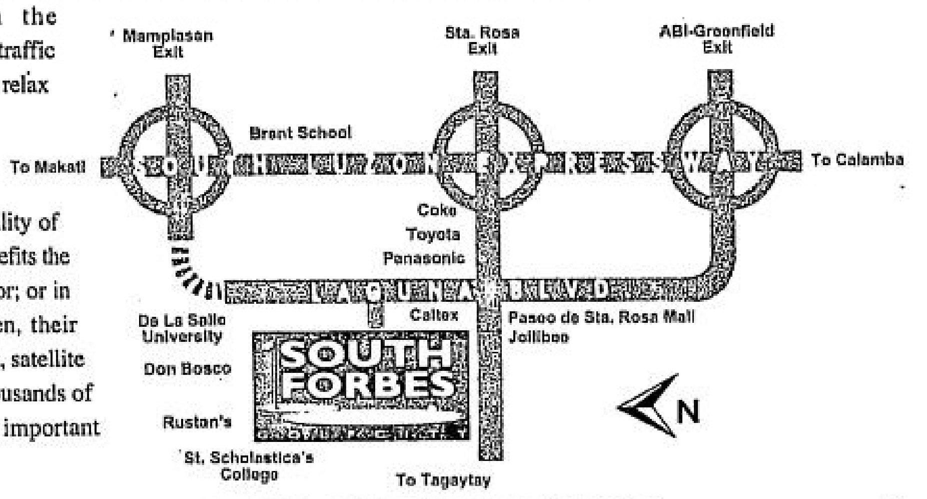
All of these top home choices offer amenities that define the modern satellite city lifestyle. For instance, the South Forbes Golf City Mansions main clubhouse will sport a luxurious infinity pool, a resort-type lobby lounge, tropical landscaping, and a gym for the exclusive use of residents.

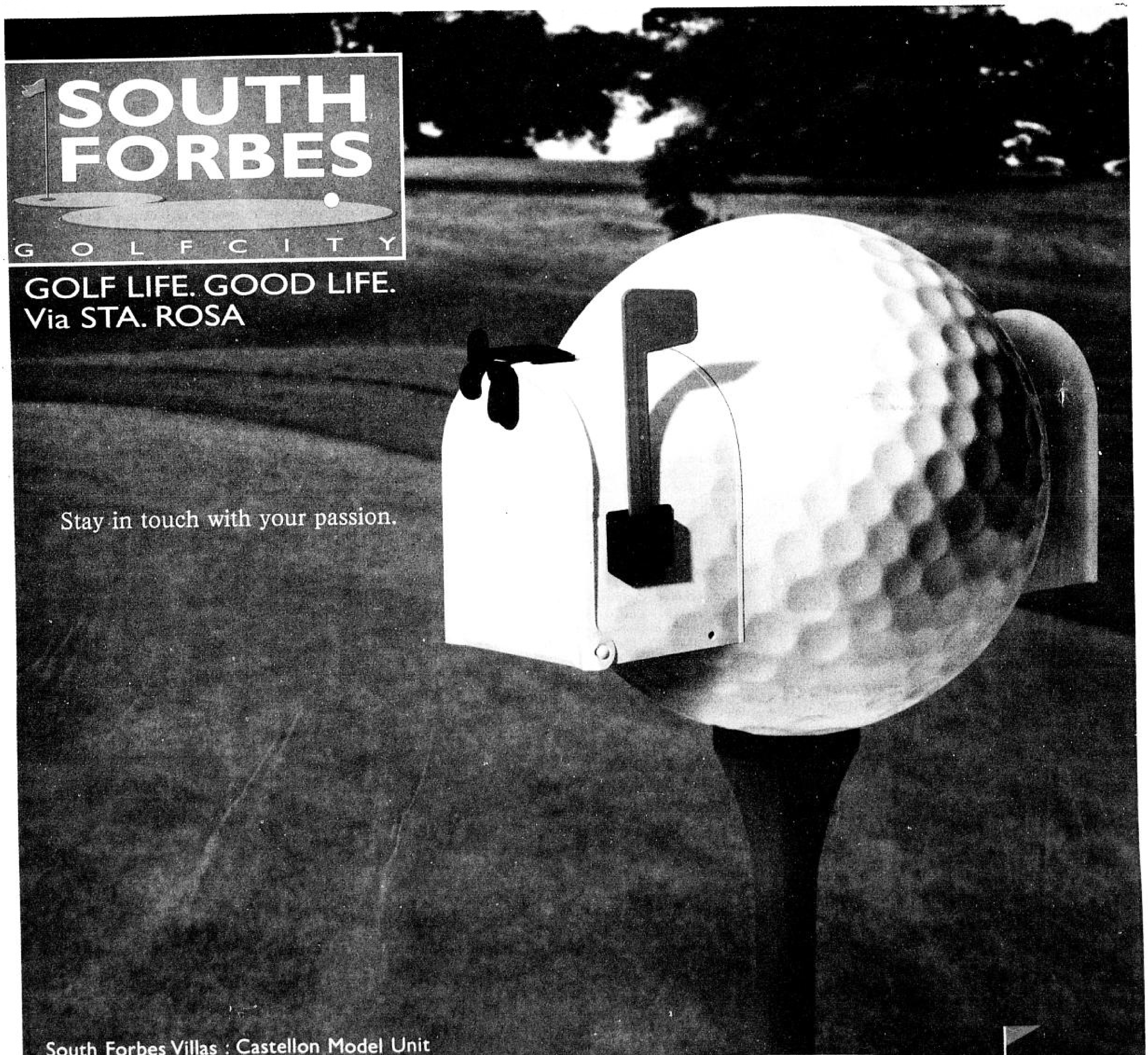
This urbane lifestyle will be further complemented by the addition of the South Forbes Golf City to the picture. Of the city's total land area, Cathay Land has dedicated 80 hectares of lush greenery, rolling hills and unspoiled environment for those who are dedicated to the game. Players will surely have fun navigating the South Forbes Golf and Leisure Club's fairways, since the site abounds with picturesque lakes and abundant bird and wildlife. With abundant leisure and sports choices for its residents and the absence of traffic since everything is within reach, South Forbes residents will form the backbone of a rejuvenated workforce and business force.

Ng cites a prime example. "Global cities have employed the 'satellite city' concept for a few years now. Hospitals, malls, recreational centers, and commercial blocks are within the vicinity, so residents and office workers don't have to deal with the metropolis' horrendous traffic jams. With more time to relax and enjoy precious moments with the family, the improvement in the quality of their lives ultimately benefits the companies they work for; or in the case of businessmen, their bottom line. Simply put, satellite cities have attracted thousands of residents to make that important lifestyle choice.

"We at Cathay Land believe that it is an opportune time for Filipino families to start experiencing the quality lifestyle that South Forbes Golf City promotes. Likewise, companies and business owners will find our rejuvenated workforce advantageous in their efforts to form a healthy corporate atmosphere," Ng enthuses.

A remarked improvement in lifestyle plus the opportunity to join Cathay Land in building a world-class city are among the rarest of invitations ever extended to discriminating investors, businessmen, and would-be home owners. To find out more about this exciting opportunity, please contact Cathay Land, Inc. at (02) 635-8108, (02) 636-4647 or visit www.cathaylandinc.com





SOUTH FORBES
GOLF CITY

GOLF LIFE. GOOD LIFE.
Via STA. ROSA

South Forbes Villas : Castellon Model Unit

Visit us at the site to experience golf life at its finest.
The houses are ready for move-in and titles ready for transfer to lot buyers.
For inquiries, please call 635-8108 or 636-4647.

SOUTH FORBES
GOLF & LEISURE CLUB

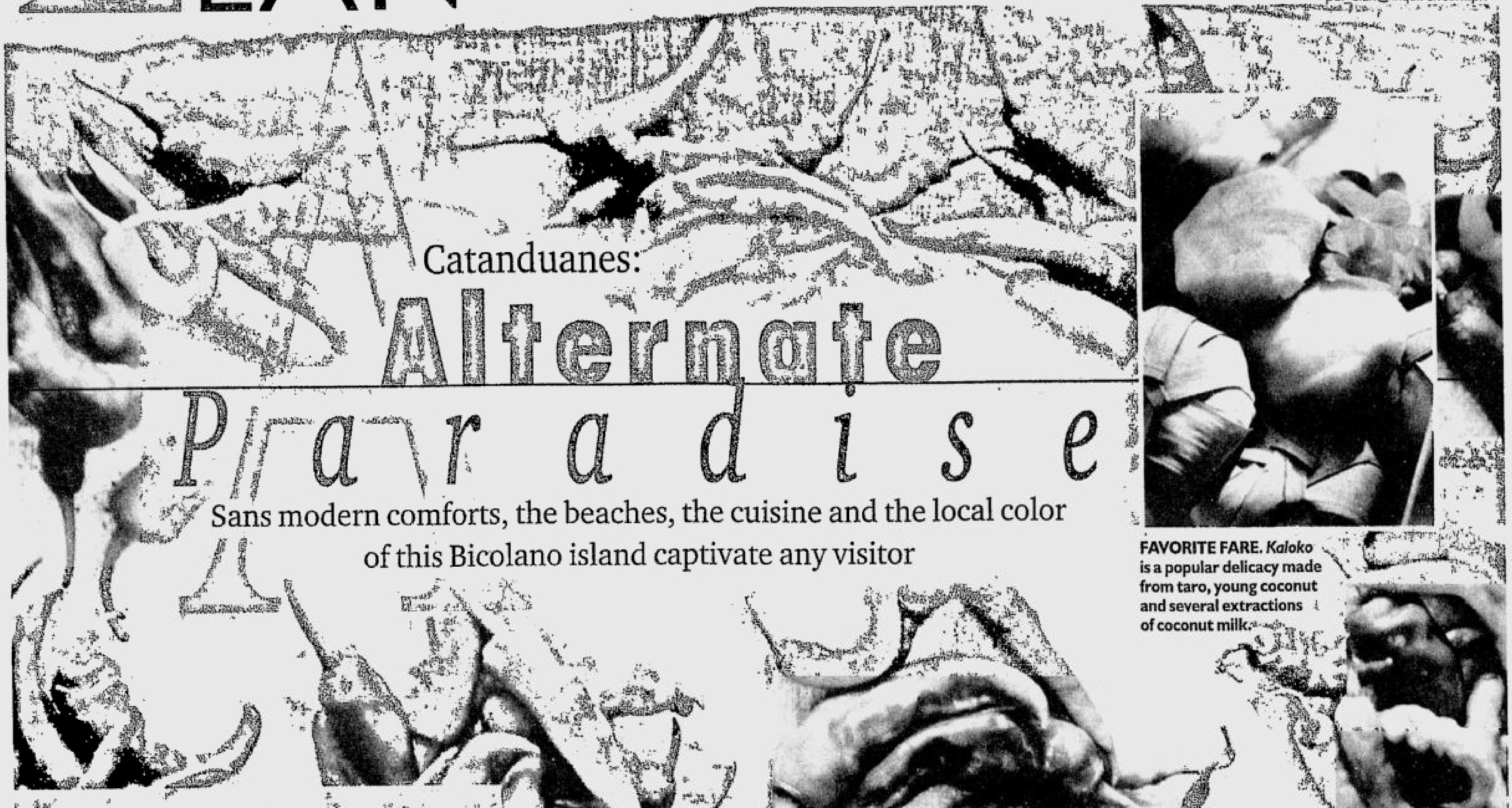
Free golf membership.
World-class amenities.
Champion location.

CATHAY LAND, INC. 23rd Floor Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA corner Ortigas Ave., Q.C. • Tel. (632) 636-4643 • 637-4812 Fax (02) 631-4069 • www.cathaylandinc.com • Email: info@cathaylandinc.com

ÉLAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Editor Marge C. Enriquez
SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2005 C1
Copy Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
Guest Creative Director **Jo Chua**
Graphic Designer **Ernie M.N. Sambo**
Editorial Prod. Asst. **Joyce C. Abaño**
E-mail: pr_elan@inquirer.com.ph
pdi_elan@inquirer.com.ph

Catanduanes: Alternate Paradise

Sans modern comforts, the beaches, the cuisine and the local color of this Bicolano island captivate any visitor



FAVORITE FARE. *Kaloko* is a popular delicacy made from taro, young coconut and several extractions of coconut milk.

CHILLIES are synonymous to Bicol.

Text by Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Wig Tysmans
Pictorial direction: Antontio Salac-Santos

DRIVING up the hills of Catanduanes, we see the rising land and vine-covered trees, sprawling jungle, huts and shanties, stretches of rice fields. The vegetation is emerald green and looks dense and fertile.

"Catanduanes is one of the few places that you can really describe as a province. Everything is virginal, especially the northern part. The people are hospitable," says Vice Governor Vincent Villaluna. "I myself did not grow up here but when I came to stay, I fell in love with the place. We are the most peaceful province in Bicol. Although Pag-asa always uses us as a reference point for typhoon paths, we have good weather all year round and we have the best summers."

At a dinner hosted by the vice governor at the Catanduanes Midtown Inn, the Élan team is served *ginataan* with roots and leaves of *gabi*, topped with flaked dried fish; fresh crabs with fresh *malunggay* leaves and coconut milk; a platter of seafoods laden with shrimps, *tanguigue* adorned with Baguio beans and young corn; blue marlin mixed with vegetables, stewed prawns; stuffed squids and grilled squid with tomatoes. Although chilli is omnipresent in the market and in most dishes, the people don't consume as much as the Bicolanos from the Peninsula.

The home cooking is so tasty. No wonder there are no fast-food joints on the island, although Chow King Is reportedly set to build a branch in downtown Virac.

"The people don't like burger. They prefer *pancit* and *buchi*," says Villaluna. "We are the largest consumers of gin, because the women are also hard drinkers. Before cable TV, people drank after a hard day's work," he says. He adds that the poverty level is not that high compared to other provinces. "The poor may lack housing but they eat everyday."

It seems that when Bicolanos are not praying (there's a church in every corner), they eat. Breakfast and snacks are variations of rice cakes and young and mature coconut cooked with coconut milk, presenting various textures.

Our meals are quintessentially Bicolano—*pinangat*, a classic local dish made from *gabi* leaves, coconut milk, taro and red chillies; shrimp, drenched in coconut milk and chillies, poached fish with tomatoes, *cocido tanguinge* with onions and tomatoes.

Villaluna hopes that at the end of his term, Catanduanes will have become a tourist destination. However, the dream will take a long time. There are few accommodations on the island. Most are home-stay programs, meaning, local families hosting visitors. Tourism infrastructure has to be built, among them a highway funded by the Japanese, set to finish in 2007.

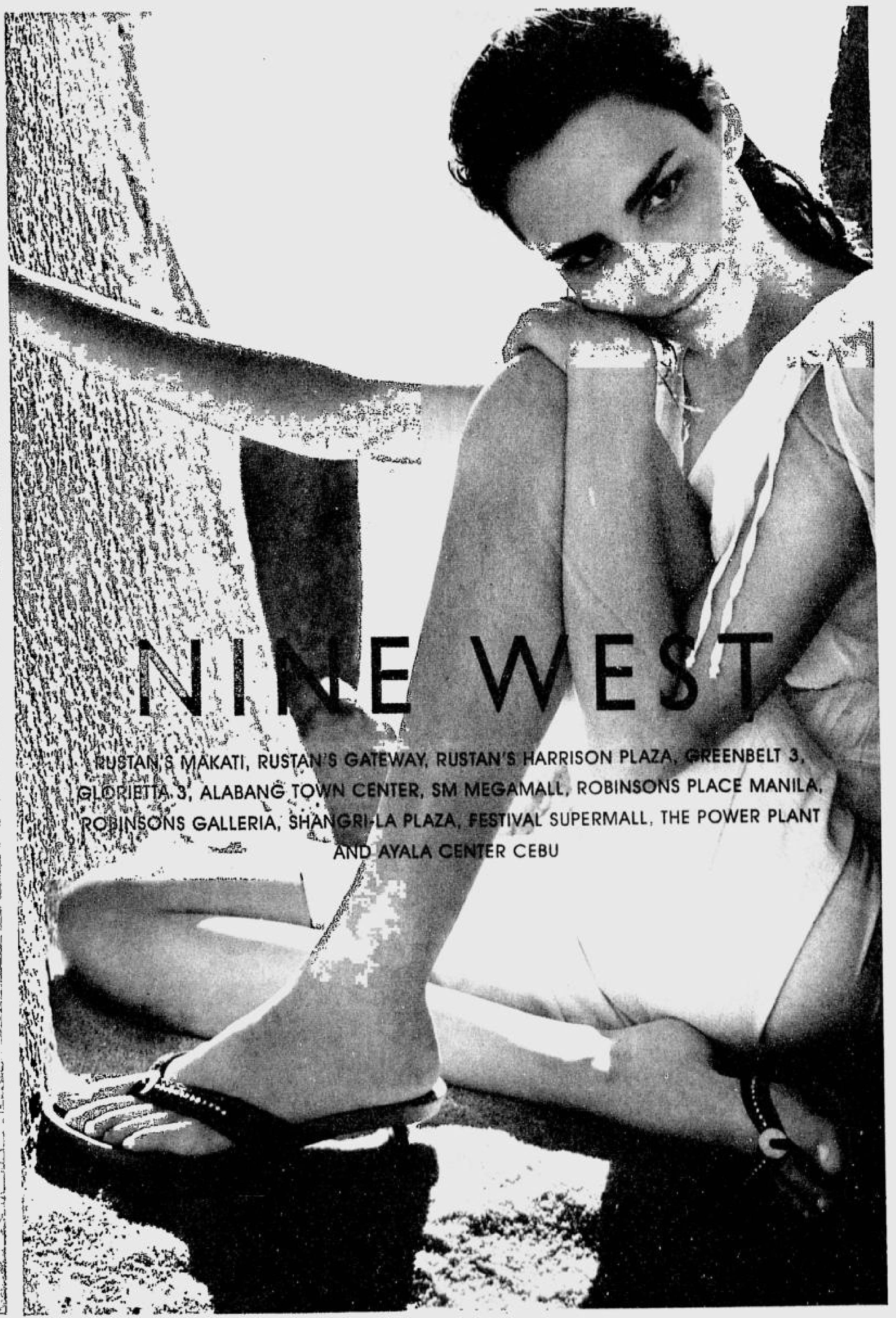
"The best beaches are located in the northern part of Catanduanes. They have the widest stretches. There is an air strip and an 18-hole golf course, not yet accessible, though, because of road work," says Villaluna.

Catanduanes, in its unspoilt beauty, is Élan's choice as location for our annual out-of-town fashion shoot. The inspirations are the beaches, the churches and the local market which is a must-go for a visceral experience. When it comes to bounties from the sea, nothing beats Virac's market. The stalls abound with baskets and boxes of dried fish in all sizes and shapes, sacks of *pili* nuts and dry noodles.

The pictorial team was led by photographer **Wig Tysmans** whose style for this location job confronts the reserve of fashion photography, in favor of a more spontaneous outdoor naturalness.

Guest artist

Jose Manuel Chua, whose moniker goes by the androgynous spelling, Jo, is our guest creative director. An art director, graphic designer and photographer, he brought in his expertise to the Philippines after being exposed to the best visual artists at the San Francisco Academy of Art. He began with Shadow Communications, a photography studio. Aside from a fecund imagination and painstakingly analytical skills, he also earned the respect of his peers for his organizing and administrative abilities. He also became one of the owners of the sister company, Shadow Visuals, a design studio which earned its reputation for its progressive designs and images, and was largely responsible for the SM campaigns. Although Chua has won several awards in advertising, he prefers to let his works speak for themselves. After the now-defunct Shadow Visuals, Chua does freelance work and consultancy.



NINE WEST
RUSTAN'S MAKATI, RUSTAN'S GATEWAY, RUSTAN'S HARRISON PLAZA, GREENBELT 3, GLORIETTA 3, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, SM MEGAMALL, ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA, ROBINSONS GALLERIA, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA, FESTIVAL SUPERMALL, THE POWER PLANT AND AYALA CENTER CEBU

Charmed *by* CATANDUAN

TOUCHED by angels at St. Anthony de Padua Church. Print on print outfit by Kashieca.

AT San Rafael Church, Carlo contemplates in a cotton, long-sleeved shirt with painted bamboo detail, rust cargo pants from Celio. Red rubber shoes from Bench

FISH-COVERED and Bench Body-clad tourists enjoy the unspoiled beauty of Puraran Beach

DRESSED in a cropped white cardigan, gathered skirt and accessorized with a silver woven leather minibag, bracelet, all from Kashieca, Gorgette strikes a bargain with a vendor in Virac.

By Marge C. Enriquez

SCATTERED sunlight pierced the lofty clouds and furrowed across the sea. The waves in Puraran, Catanduanes, were forceful as they came out from the depths, several feet high. They rose to twice their height. Even as the lip feathered, another lip formed, so that the whole top of the wave lurched over.

Catanduanes' claim to fame—aside from being Pagasa's reference point to a typhoon path—is that it's an alternative paradise. It made a bid as surfer's haven but was eclipsed by Siargao on account of the latter's powerful and effective media campaign and establishment of resorts and infrastructure.

Puraran is known for its barrel waves, or the cyclical motion of the waters. Surfers experience the rhythm of the waves, and responding to their impalpable locomotion. In surfing circuits, Puraran is on the last leg of the surfing circuit in September. Last year more than 50 foreigners joined the surfers' competition.

Surfers, mostly Australians and Japanese, stay at the Majestic Resort, composed of a few thatched bungalows.

Limitations

Although the beach is captivating for its pristine beauty, the facilities are basic and there is no toilet flushing system—yet. Owners also generally prefer to stay low key so that the place could remain exclusive and entice foreigners to stay longer. One reason is that the waves can comfortably accommodate only eight surfers at a time.

"Most of the tourists are backpackers. This is the limitation. We can't offer Puraran as tourist destination. You cannot even invite Koreans or honeymooners," says Ivan Arcilla, Asian Spirit's station manager in the provincial capital of Virac. He likens Puraran to Boracay in the '80s when it was still terra incognita. The difference is that Boracay had no electricity at the time.

But the lack of modern comforts does not deter either local or foreign visitors to return, to its tide-scalloped sandbars, the rapture of pure water, the roar of the waves, seaweeds floating with the swells or the liberating feeling of gliding towards the sun.

How to start a journey

We follow Paul Theroux's formula in starting a travel story, and begin from how we get to the destination: Asian Spirit braved the market.

In the past, Virac posted no. 2 in load factor (airline term for quota of cargo weight and number of passengers). Currently, passenger profile comprises mostly of commuters, students and businessmen shuttling between Virac and Manila. Tourist traffic is small and seasonal. It

CHARMED/ C3

Charmed by Catanduanes

From page C2

gets busy when *balikbayans* come home for Christmas. Many travelers prefer to take the 10-hour bus ride from Manila or the boat, or ferry, for a fraction of the cost of air travel.

COOLING off in an orange, floral shirt, flirty skirt and accessories from Kashieca. Powder blue flats with floral detail from HerBench

VIRAC market offers the largest bounty of dried fish.

(Arcilla adds that Asian Spirit does its share of corporate responsibility, such as sponsoring dengue seminars in Masbate and Virac. Or, when a disaster strikes in Bicol, the airline flies in relief goods and members of the Red Cross.)

We press our faces against the misty porthole from the plane's fuselage, in awe of the landscape. Our description is cliché: There is the abundance of greenery, furrows and patches of fields, roads thread their way into the hills. As the plane descends to the airport, we can see the majestic palm trees, harvests of rice and rooftops of shanties.

The team is whisked to Catanduanes Midtown Inn, one of few accommodations suitable for tourists. It is owned and managed by Napoleon and Lily Co, who exemplify the province's affluent community. Both of them are second-generation Chinese-Filipinos. Their parents were traders, mostly in hemp, the province's main industry.

Lily's father died when she was young. To help support the family, she took a part-time job. She was minding the store one day when Napoleon drove through and spotted her beauty. Courtship and marriage quickly followed. The Cos, being enterprising, ventured into real estate, hardware and auto supply. One day, authorities from the Development Bank of the Philippines approached Lily and asked if the couple would be interested in running Catanduanes Midtown Inn. Since they took over, the property has taken in *balikbayans*, tourists and traveling salesmen.

Alberto farm

Next in the itinerary is the visit to the farm of Virac Mayor Jose Alberto II's, who also happens to produce the winning-est fighting cocks in the country. The farm covers knolls of green vegetation and a prodigious sweep of tree tops which are groves of *pili* trees and orchards of coconut and acacia trees. He has planted a thousand *pili* trees and had them regerminated. The most striking element of the farm are concrete pyramids that shelter the game cocks, dotting the landscape. Alberto's father was a congressman. Two uncles and his sister became governors of Catanduanes. It was inevitable that he ended up in politics.

"Our municipality is clean. I concentrated on the waste management program and on organizing the *palengke*. Criminality is low," he says.

He has challenged illegal fishing by cyanide. Shady traders buy fish for P700 a kilo and sell them in Manila for P1,200. "Cyanide is logged in the brain and knocks the fish out. Be careful not to eat that part," he warns.

Before entering politics he was already breeding game cocks. His hobby began in the late '60s when he joined the derbies. He then started importing roosters, bred and trained them for derbies. He even joined tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco in Bacolod to train his roosters. He then went on to breed cocks in a 12-hectare farm in Laguna, which he describes as "small time."

ROMANCE in the Magic Hour at Bato-Baras junction.

In Catanduanes, his farm is 29 hectares and houses some 800 roosters. He says it's an expensive operation, not only because of importing the feeds but also because of the maintenance. There is one caretaker for every 15. "What is painful is when the rooster is stolen from you," he says.

Breeding cocks and the cockfighting have their payoffs. Like golf, the cockpit is the place to schmooze and network. He forged a friendship with former President Joseph Estrada through this sport.

ADMIRING the cock breeds at Mayor Luis Alberto's farm. Carlo is dressed in a white cotton, appliquéd shirt and twill cotton shorts from Celio.

"Erap was the first president who gave help of more than P150 million for concrete to fix the sea wall and smoothen the roads. During a calamity, he was the only president who gave two bags of rice for each household all over the province. That was worth more than P70 million," he says.

Clean airport

When he quits politics, Alberto plans to sell his cocks and devote his passion to breeding. "After spending a hectic day in the office, you unwind at the farm and sleep early. At 4 a.m. you wake up to the symphony of the crowing of the rooster. Walking around the farm is great exercise," says Alberto.

Up the hills of his estate is the rest house. The view is a panorama of open rice fields, clusters of woodland, a prodigious shoreline, and the capital Virac on the far horizon, with occasional church towers, marks of the people's deep religiosity.

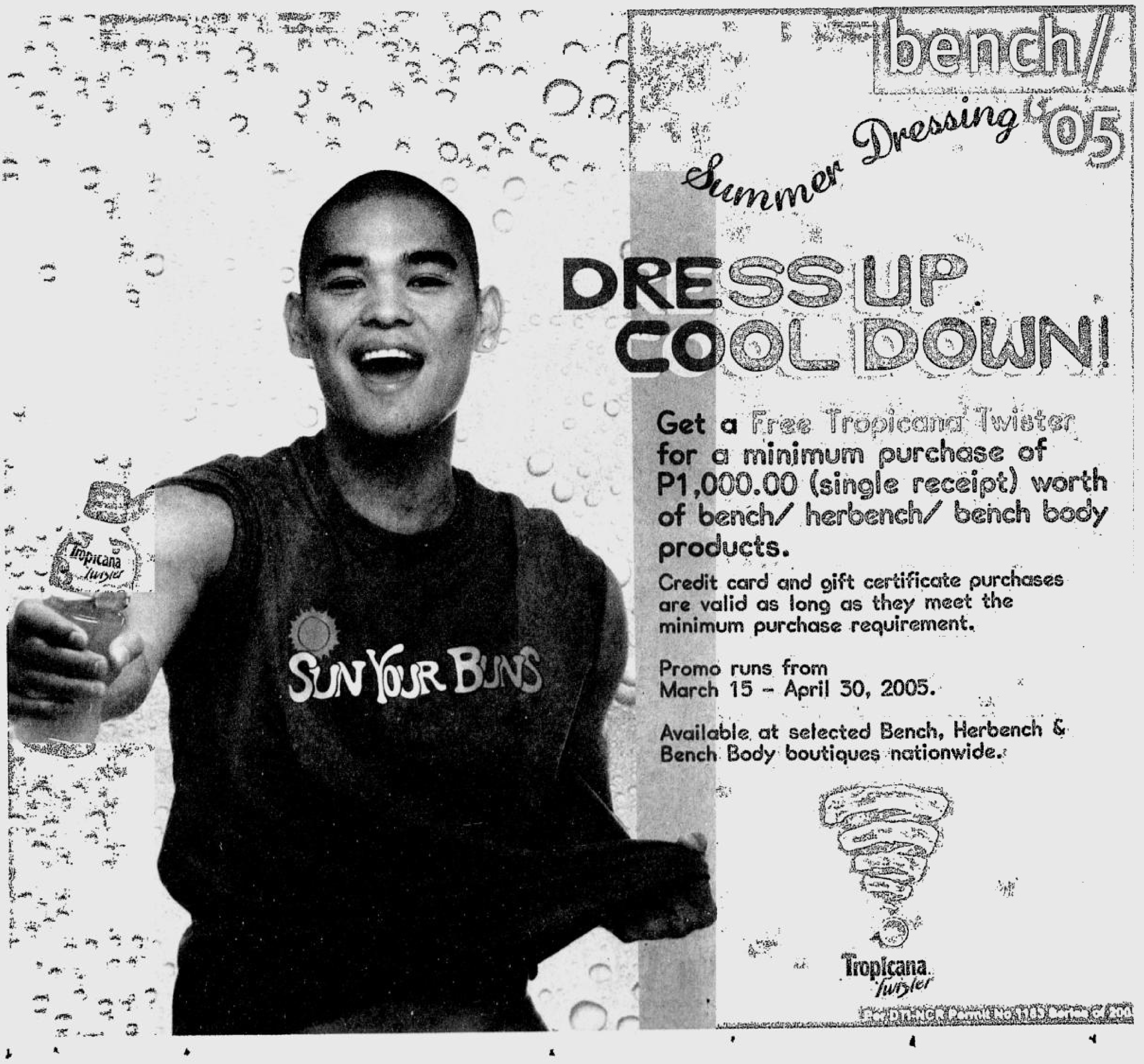
Catanduanes is proud of its mountains, beaches, caves and waterfalls. However it can't compete with Boracay and other tourists destinations because it lacks facilities. Ivan Arcilla, Asian Spirit's local station manager, sees the potential in creating a river network for kayaking and rafting.

"I've been trying to convince the vice-governor (Vincent Villaluna) who is also president of the provincial tourism council. If we introduce activities, they must be community-based. I encourage mayors to develop their municipal tourism councils," says Arcilla.

For travelers, a visit to Catanduanes means to enjoy the people's hospitality, visiting the caves, enjoying nature. Back in Manila, we are laden with boxes of dried fish, rice and coconut cakes wrapped in banana leaves ... and wonderful memories. Oh, and Virac has one up over on Boracay—a clean airport.

Credits:
Wig Tysmans was assisted by **Tonnette Jacinto** and **Revelindo Beri**
Clothes: **Celio, Bench Body, Kashieca**
Models: **Gorgette Peña, Carlo Adorador**
Styling: **Noel Manapat**
Hair, makeup and grooming: **Dennis Tan**
Makeup: Pied Nus and Jean-Paul Gaultier available at My Beauty Hub

Special thanks to:
Jack Po, Ivan Arcilla and **Allen Mojica** of Asian Spirit
Asian Spirit flies to Virac daily
Catanduanes Midtown Inn, San Jose St. Virac; tel. (052) 8110527.
Visit the website at catmid.inn. tripod.com
Majestic Resort, Puraran, no. 0919-5581460
Carmel Bonifacio, Tourism Promotion Officer tel. (052)8112549 and (052)8111141



bench/
Summer Dressing '05
DRESS UP COOL DOWN!

Get a Free Tropicana Twister for a minimum purchase of P1,000.00 (single receipt) worth of bench/ herbench/ bench body products.

Credit card and gift certificate purchases are valid as long as they meet the minimum purchase requirement.

Promo runs from March 15 – April 30, 2005.

Available at selected Bench, Herbench & Bench Body boutiques nationwide.

CROWN TRENDS

The entry foyer shows off a golden floor of polished wood, the ceiling soars high above. Saffron, bold magenta and gold leaf dominate the room. The feeling is Bangkok, but the scenery from the windows is Manhattan in winter.

Tropical design is here to stay and the image sits well in any global setting. Even in Asia, where colonial architecture and interiors were very much in vogue, the quest for opulence and resplendence has found lasting solutions in the realm of tropicalism.

Beyond colors and finishes, the clever use of stone adds a strong sense of permanence and volume as resonated by famous Asian monuments such as Angkor Wat. But happily, this tropicalism trend is born from solutions dictated by the unique environment of Asia. Thai screens, Balinese roofs, Philippine windows — Asian cultures have all been influenced by weather and the environment and form a regional design paradigm. Resort hotels and communities worldwide continue to adapt this look and feel for the desired element of air and light and natural materials so much associated with Asia. A welcome antithesis to the world of cold high-tech.— *Jose Salvador*

Tropical Internationalism continues to take the design world by storm

* * *

The genius of tropical living interpreted for today's homeplanners

Bali's *"Balai"* series

• Calliandra • Davallia • Amabile • Azolla • Gloriosa

The high-pitched roofs and the wide windows provide unbridled natural air circulation. The stone-clad walls add durability with high aesthetic value.

Is it any wonder then, that the world famous resorts continue to build using the wisdom of tropical living?

For more information,
call: 873 1416, 873 6610

Bali
At Island Park
Sensible. Asian. Chic.
Governor's Drive, Dasmariñas, Cavite

Crown Asia
Your home, our pride.

Bali. Sensible. Asian. Chic.

Our island roots provide a unique residential solution

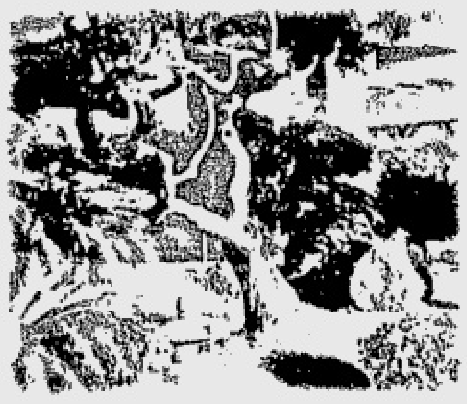
Filipinos are truly islanders at heart. With 7,100 islands, how can we be any different from our fellow Pacific neighbors?

Our dialects, our customs, our arts and crafts, landscapes and home designs are so alike. After all, the first migratory population that settled in the Philippines came from Indonesia and Malaysia.

With this cultural lineage in mind, Crown Asia looked to neighboring Indonesia for design inspiration. And what better center for lifestyle inspiration than Bali. Because of its global fame as a tourist destination, Bali's indigenous home designs have been inspiring architects the world over.

Our environment shapes how we design

As islanders, our climate dictates most of how our homes are crafted. The heat and humidity teach us the importance of good ventilation. Rain and tropical storms mold the walls and roofs we build. Our verdant surroundings inspire us to draw nature in and make it a part of our abode.

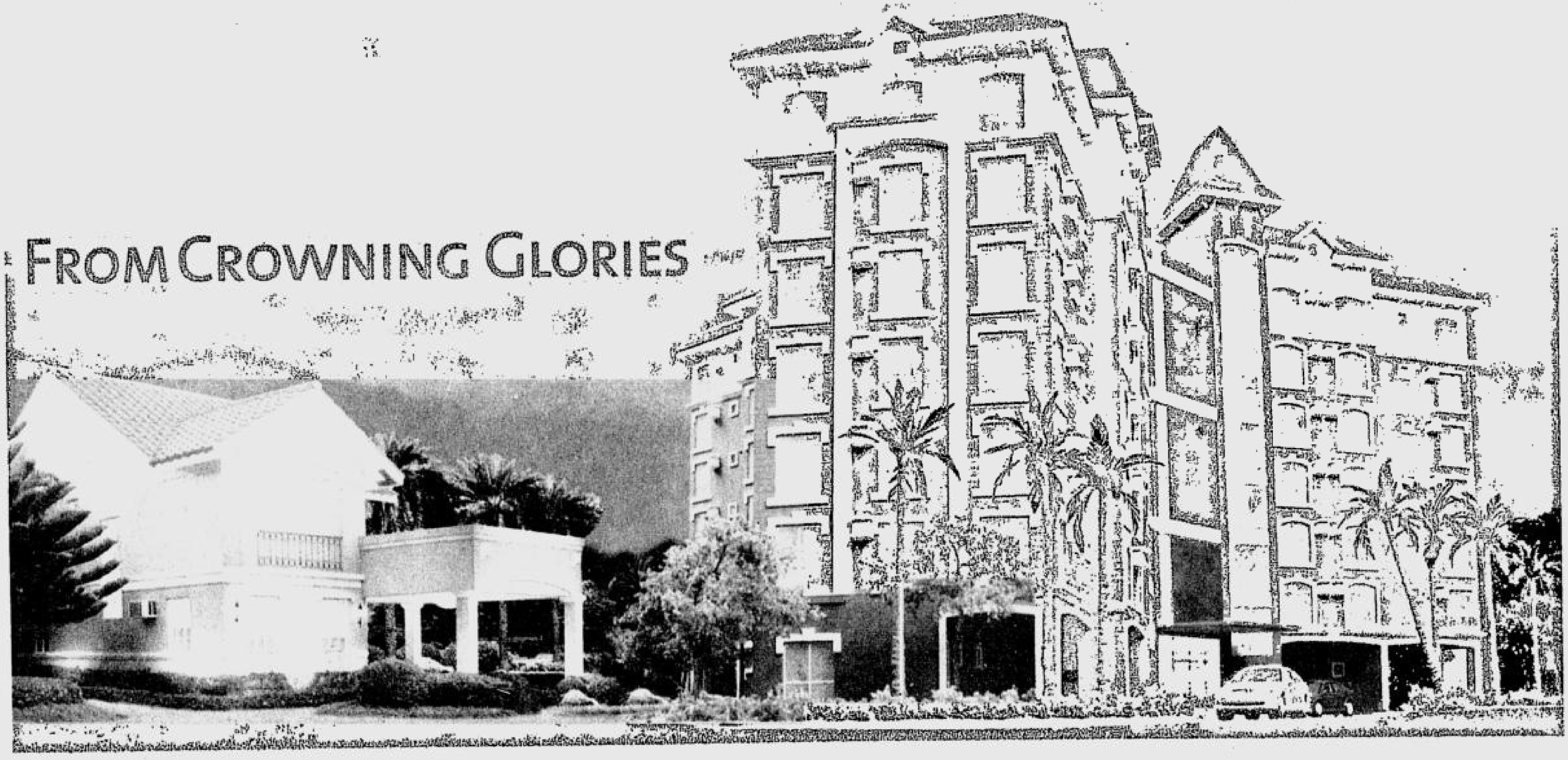


Peaked roofs infuse elegance and draw warmth upward. Large windows and verandas allow air to circulate and cool the interiors while allowing gardens to be appreciated. Stone is used for strength and durability; tiled roofs shed heat and withstand strong winds.

Accessible, posh vicinity

Bali at Island Park is located at Governor's Drive, Dasmarinas, Cavite. The location is superb; close to the industrial and leisure centers of Laguna and points south of Metro Manila, yet still close to Makati. In fact there are numerous transportation terminals and hubs in the area, shuttling to and from the central business district. Bali is within the posh community of Island Park, and shares many of the latter's amenities. The proximity to Island Park itself ensures serenity, security and greenery, 3 of the 5 core values of Crown Asia.

FROM CROWNING GLORIES TO TOWERING REALIZATIONS



Bali
At Island Park
Sensible. Asian. Chic.

Amici
safe and sound with family and friends always around

TERRACES
at Maia Alta

Presidio
at Brittany Bay

10 WINNING YEARS OF CROWN ASIA

Marking a glorious decade of transforming humble heaths to enviable communities.

Value and Beauty, empowering our drive

As Crown Asia enters the next decade, the mantra remains the same: "*Building greater values into your new home.*" Beyond the exterior aesthetics, Crown Asia looks into home interiors and finishing for greater excellence, cost efficiencies and the highest levels of consumer satisfaction.

Five Core Values

Crown Asia's unique strength is centered on 5 core values that have become the very cornerstones of each and every one of its past, current and future projects.

Greenery – All Crown Asia communities are developed with generous open areas, grass and foliage. Properly planned and landscaped breathing space has become a necessity rather than a luxury.

Security – The safety of our homes and loved ones has become a mandate. Crown Asia developments are planned with excellent security systems.

Choices – Every Crown Asia development seeks to provide a wide array of options within each project to meet consumer needs.

Serenity – The location of each Crown Asia development may be ideally situated, along major roads or thoroughfares, but each community is masterplanned to isolate itself from the din outside its gates.

Attainability - A beautiful home is every Filipino's dream. What makes up this dream is what Crown Asia strives for in the service of new home planners.

Thousands of homes in 10 years

Driven by the inner desire for Filipinos to own a home to be proud of, Crown Asia fanned far and wide across the land and identified key locations for signature projects that have become the veritable standard for land development in the country today.

Signature Projects

Everywhere that's marked by the proud Crown Asia name, a resplendent community blossoms. Quezon City: *La Brea* and *Granwood Villas*, Las Pinas: *Beacon Place*; Cavite: *La Mediterranea, Citta Italia, Vivace*; Laguna: *La Marea, Fortezza*; Antipolo: *Cottonwoods, Maia Alta, Mia Vita*; Sucat: *Presidio by Brittany Bay*

P12 Billion to new and ongoing projects

Crown Asia is ardently committed to the country's immediate future by pouring in formidable resources to new projects—Quezon City: *Presidio Batasan Hills*; Antipolo: *Terraces, Assumption Woods*; Cavite: *Amici, Pastorale*; Laguna: *Allessi*.

A new thesis for high rise homes - Crown Towers

Presidio at Brittany Bay is a carefully strategized masterplan vertical development. Presidio projects are self-contained communities maximizing their chosen locations complete with support amenities. Presidio at Brittany Bay capitalizes on the enviable lakeshore location with resort-like amenities.

P12 Billion to new and ongoing project

The Idea Parity Breakers

The operative phrase from Crown Asia's president Jerry M. Navarrete, "We've got to come up with a tantalizing option for buyers and agents to prefer us. Our main mission is to delight all who come to Crown Asia and those we call to work with us."

Jerry M. Navarrete of Crown Asia

"Our pride and satisfaction comes from the joy our home owners express as they move into their new Crown Asia home. This simply affirms that we've been doing the right things."

Carmelo Casas of Recio + Casas.

"With Crown Asia, the lines between client and consutant disappear into one seamless creative force, which delights my partner and our team," Architect Carmelo Casas explained.

Roberto Gopiao of RPG Inc.

"Approaching landscaping, they take the impact of 10 years into consideration. They brainstorm with us on how the site will look from afar, with signature trees, colors of blossoms and even water features."

Pinky Cruz, Creative Post Inc.

"Creating an environment of 'affordable luxury' is really a daunting task in itself. When the model units are unveiled, the immediate reactions are, 'How did you make 36 square meters look so big?' When this happens to an interior designer like me, it's like an audience wildly applauding."

CROWN SOUTH 873 1614, 873 6610 CROWN NORTH 634 9001 CROWN TOWERS 718 3400, 892 2249 www.crownasia.com.ph

Crown Asia *Your home of choice*

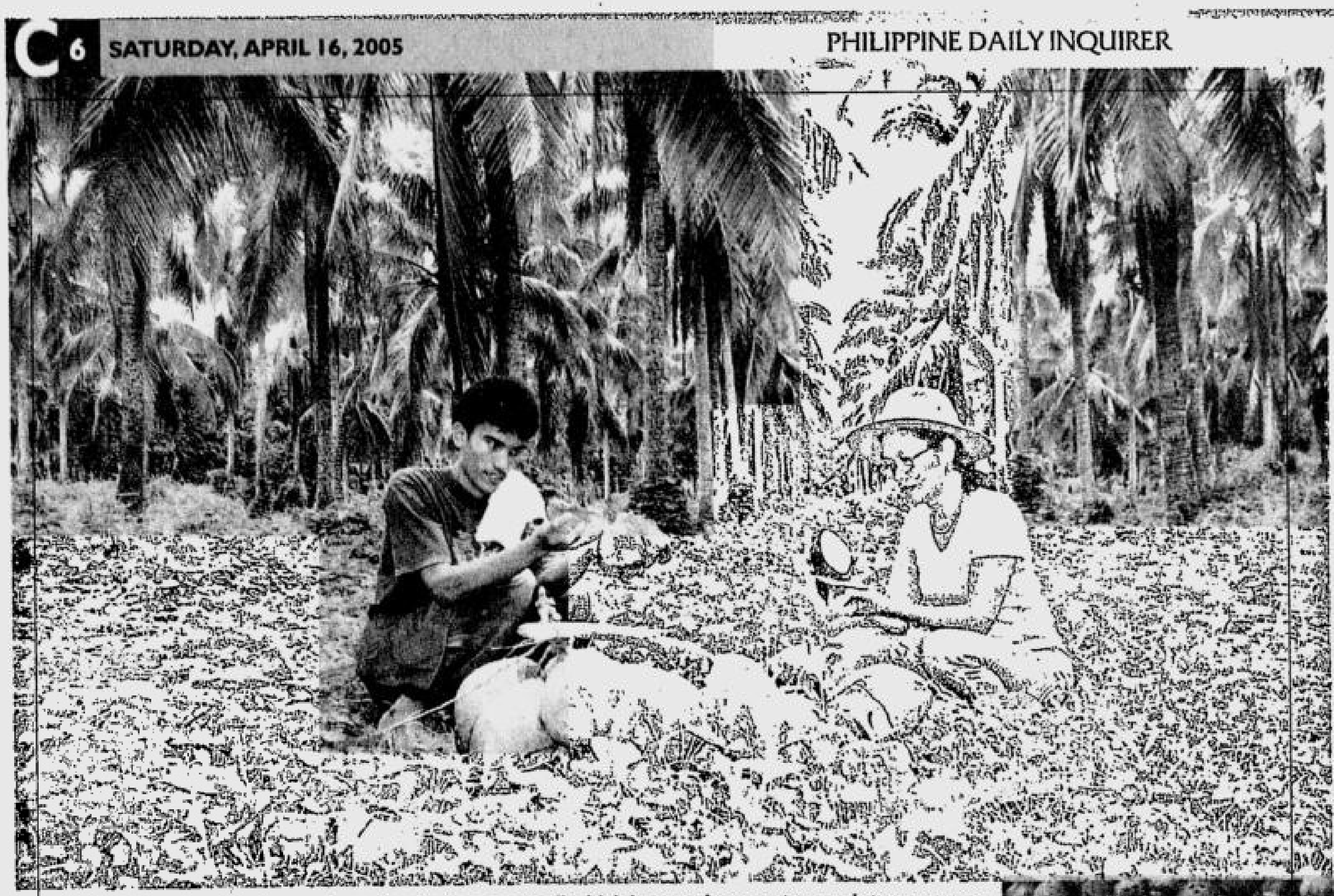


PHOTO: LYNETT VILLARIBA

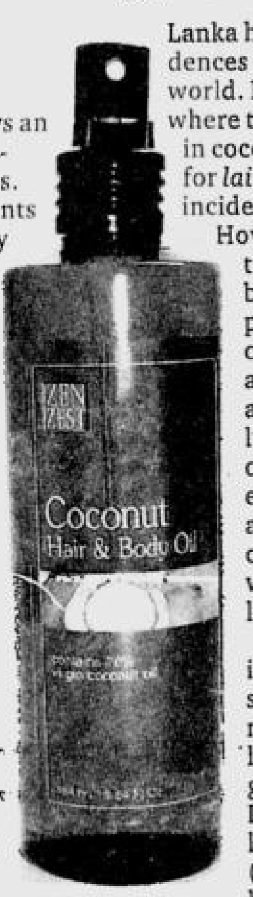
THE FARM at San Benito produces its virgin coconut oil which is served to guests on a detox program.

In Sanskrit it is called 'kalpa vriksha,' which translates to 'the tree that provides all necessities of life'

PRODUCTS from Gina Oil Corporation in Quezon do not apply heat process during the pressing to keep the oil's nutrients

What's up, coconut?

By Dr. Martin Camara
Contributor



PURE virgin coconut oil is ideal for massage as it does not clog the pores and protects the skin against infection.

THE COCONUT tree is always an inviting symbol of tropical islands, such as the Philippines. One of the most valuable plants known to man, it is a primary source of food, drink, and shelter. In Sanskrit the coconut palm is called "kalpa vriksha," which translates to "the tree that provides all the necessities of life." From the white nut meat that is an excellent source of protein (food), to the clear juice that is an excellent source of minerals and electrolytes (drink), to the outer part of the trunk that is a source of lumber (shelter) and the oil derived from the crushed dried meat of the kernels as medicine.

Population studies around the world have shown a lower incidence of heart disease and more consistently normal blood cholesterol levels in countries that traditionally consume large quantities of coconut oil.

Lowest, highest

The Philippines and Sri Lanka have one of the lowest incidences of heart disease in the world. In regions such as Bicol, where the traditional diet is high in coconut (and which is famous for *laing* and Bicol Express), the incidence rates are even lower.

However, in places where the traditional coconut oil-based diets have been replaced with vegetable oil or others, the incidence rates are up. In America, for example, where they use mostly polyunsaturated soybean oil produced by local farmers, the incidence rate is at an all time high. In fact, one out of every two Americans will die from a cardiovascular condition.

What these studies tell us is that coconut oil is an essential supplement for normalizing blood cholesterol levels critical in maintaining good cardiovascular health. It dramatically increases the level of good cholesterol (HDL) in our bodies which help protect against heart disease.

There is also an established link between chronic low-grade infections and heart disease. Studies done in the University of Helsinki in Finland and the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, confirm that a large percentage of heart attack patients carry antibodies for certain bacteria and viruses. These microorganisms can cause, or at least are involved in, the development of arterial plague.

COCONUT fruits in Polomolok, South Cotabato

Coconut oil is one of only two natural sources of Medium Chain Fatty Acids (MCFA) that have been known to kill all three of the major types of artherogenic organisms. In other words, if you want to avoid dying of heart disease... you should be using coconut oil.

First clinical study

Dr. Conrado Dayrit, Filipino pharmacologist and professor emeritus, has written extensively about the healing properties and medicinal use of coconut oil. From 1999 to 2000, he conducted the first clinical study that tested the effectiveness of the oil against the viral load of 15 patients afflicted with HIV in Manila at the San Lazaro hospital. His conclusions confirmed that coconut oil does have a significant anti-viral effect.

In 2003, amidst the deadly viral epidemic known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, government health officials in the Philippines urged people to consume virgin coconut oil for protection against SARS.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit announced that there was evidence that virgin coconut oil cannot only protect one from the SARS virus, but possibly also cure the afflicted.

American health expert Dr. Bruce Fife, a naturopathic physician, certified nutritionist and author of several books on the miraculous healing properties of coconut oil, uses it for the treatment of topical skin lesions, boosting the immune system, chronic fatigue syndrome and infectious diseases.

These doctors recommend two to four tablespoonfuls of virgin coconut oil a day taken straight, in salad dressings or mixed into drinks such as coffee or tea. It may also be used in cooking and baking or mixed into a bowl of oatmeal.

It can be used topically over almost any type of skin condition—from simple cuts and burns, fungal infections, eczema, wrinkles to even pre-cancerous lesions.

A matter of time

Under the leadership of Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, Jimmy Dyliaco and Grace Eleazar of the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Healthcare, an innovative program for Virgin Coconut Oil has been set in place, combining a Health Promotion Campaign with an Economic Enhancement Agenda. This novel campaign aims to improve the health of majority of the population while doubling, or possibly tripling, the income of the rural coconut farmer. The program aims to create 66 Niyog Tulungan Centers (NTCs) across the country where farmers can bring their coconuts to be processed into oils. This will be simultaneously engaged with a National Advocacy Campaign on the health benefits of using coconut oil to increase the local and possibly international demand for the product. The end goal of these ground-breaking developments is to create a healthier and richer Filipino. It will then be only a matter of time when people the world over will look up with high regard to the lowly coconut.

For questions, please e-mail the author at drmartin@intercare-centers.com

---

Tweaking old recipes for new experiences

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor

CHEF Vicky Rose Pacheco's latest tweak to Chateau 1771's menu is to offer dishes in larger portions, to encourage sharing. I say, "encourage" because servings are not overwhelmingly large; rather, they allow groups of diners to enjoy more than one favorite appetizer or entrée. Even side dishes are listed separately to allow one to mix and match, though some entrées come with vegetables as sides or as garnish.

Thus even a twosome can enjoy, as we did, the classic appetizer of raclette, served with roasted tomato bruschetta; and of gratinated scallops. Our entrées consisted of Beef Tenderloin Balsamico and Sole Meuniere. These we had with sides of grilled leeks and eggplants in barbecue sauce.

For many diners, this writer included, a meal at Chateau would invariably include at least one serving of broiled raclette. Save for Manila's swankier hotels, Chateau is one of the city's few restos that serve this traditional Swiss-Italian dish.

Perhaps because, as most dishes go, it is not only an acquired taste, but also an acquired aroma—the smell of cooked aged cheese is heady and fragrant to converts, but reeking and foul to the uninitiated. Thus this visit found my husband and I hastily cleaning out the dish of raclette with its many accoutrements (potatoes, gherkins, baby onions).

It was as we remembered—pleasing in its full, sharp, aged, foul-smelling glory. The accompanying roasted tomato bruschetta we ignored until the very end, when it was apparent that the serving, sharing size or not, was not enough. Indeed, it is never enough.

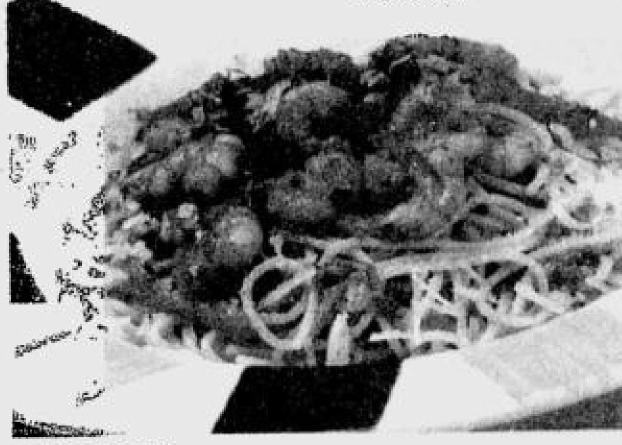
We then turned our attention to the scallops appetizer. To say that it held its own beside the raclette is already saying a lot. Sautéed in garlic and a light cream sauce, with a sprinkling of cheese and breadcrumbs, the delicate medallions of scallops were tender, not quite cooked through. Perfect.

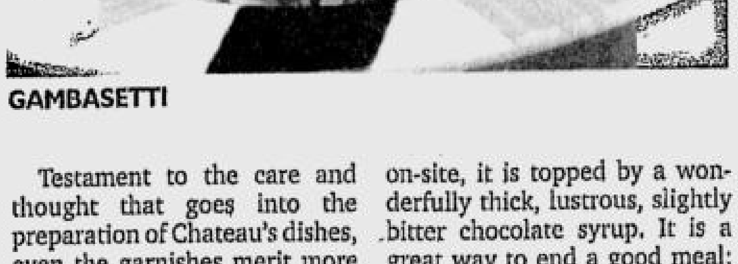
Steak and dessert

For our mains, the Sole Meuniere looked impressive on the serving dish, but was a bit underseasoned. What did manage to win us over was the Beef Tenderloin Balsamico. It's surprising how some restaurants mess up a good cut of meat; but this isn't true of Chateau.

Perhaps not taking her chances with local meat, Pacheco gives the steaks a quick bath in vinaigrette and Worcestershire sauce before taking it to the grill. The result is a steak (two steaks, actually) that is nicely browned on the outside, with a surprisingly gamey taste that is quite refreshing. It is as if the marinade heightens the gaminess of the beef, rather than masks it.

Our steak was cooked perfectly medium rare, thank you (it's surprising how some restaurants can mess that up, too).


TANGIGUE Amandine


GAMBASETTI

Testament to the care and thought that goes into the preparation of Chateau's dishes, even the garnishes merit more than a taste. Our baked tomatoes and caramelized baby onions were too good to leave on the plate. Ditto with the side dish of grilled leeks, which was coated with a sweetish basting, perhaps of the honey-balsamic kind.

When we were ready to call it a night, we were prevailed upon to try some of the desserts. In hindsight, we were glad we did.

The Belgian white chocolate ice cream is a winner; and while the ice cream itself is not made on-site, it is topped by a wonderfully thick, lustrous, slightly bitter chocolate syrup. It is a great way to end a good meal; in fact, it is in itself a good enough reason to revisit Chateau.

From Chauteau 1771's opening in Malate, then as a French bistro, to its present Mediterranean-inspired digs at El Pueblo in Ortigas Center and its mantra of "no-borders cuisine," Pacheco's offerings have evolved alongside the clientele—mind you, never too much as to alienate its loyal followers, just enough to gain new fans, and keep them all coming back for more.

Hot! off the grill

PICTURE this: you sit in a cabana by the water, finishing off a fruit shake as a gentle breeze wafts about. On the table beside you is a plate with the remains of a shrimp cocktail and a mesclun salad. You shake off a mild reverie, get up and walk toward the smell of meat and seafood on the grill.

A few quiet minutes later you are back in the same chair, body arched in a cat-stretch, after having partaken of premium cuts of salmon, lamb and fillet mignon, grilled perfectly to your liking by the chef. Your hand reaches out for the glass of fruit shake, your second. "Ahhh, the life," you think dreamily as you take a sip, your only concern being whether your stomach has room for dessert.

A scene straight out of some fantasy? Actually, it's more like the regular occurrence these days at the poolside of The Peninsula Manila, which has been conducting its poolside barbecue.

The dinner buffet promotion has been well received, given that one can have a sampling of prime, top-quality dishes in a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere (there is no dress code).

The main feature is the grill, which serves cuts of herb-marinated lamb chops, soy-marinated pork loin, teriyaki-marinated beef mignon, ginger and lime-marinated salmon, pesto-marinated lapu-lapu, hickory-smoked spare ribs, king prawns with salt and butter, and sausages from The Pen's deli. There is also an abbreviated selection of salads and antipasti, and desserts.

Have your pick—or have them all, as I did! My choice of the lot: lamb chops, done medium rare, with a side of watercress and olives in light vinaigrette. Hearty but simple and straightforward; perfect for a warm summer evening. *Meluchi A. Rivera*

THE BARBEQUE meal is enhanced by the ambiance.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Bleach is back

Photos by Frank Hoefsmit

THE BLEACH is back. Think Madonna's hydrogen peroxide hair in the '80s. This time, the hair is in sections close to the face, thus the trend "Border Color."

Oleg Stepanov of Essensuals' Toni & Guy points out that "Border Color" comprises of coloring panels of the hair against a high contrast shade, either to emphasize the shape of the haircut, or to flatter the face.

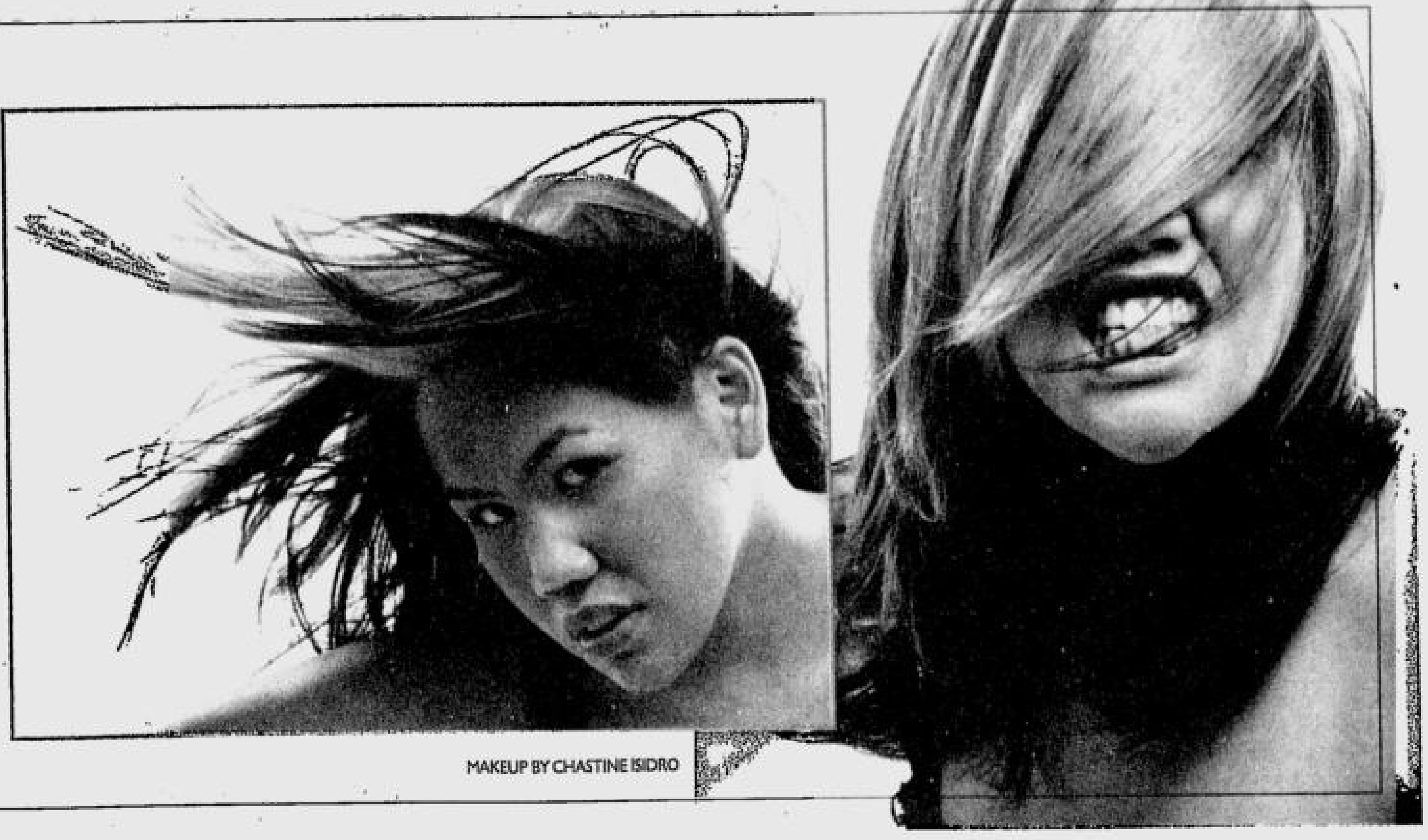
Oleg radically changed singer Bituin Escalante's looks by using cool shades of dark purple and red violet against a "white border" or bleached sections close to the temples or parting fringes.

The result is a versatile look. It can be brushed to one side to show the darker highlights, or blown away to show off the bleached sections.

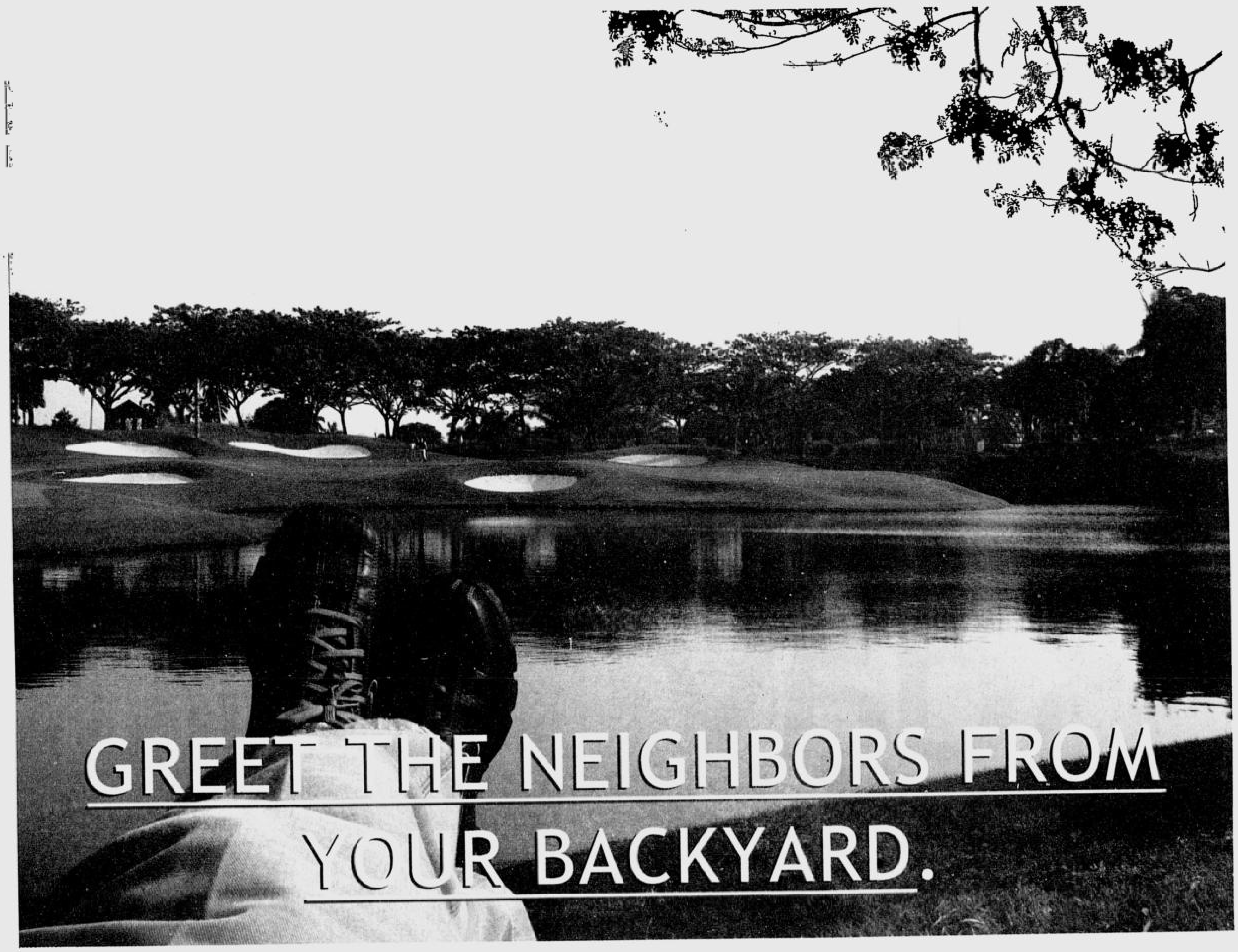
"The same coloring technique can look different depending on the brushing style. Many moods can be created," says Oleg.

"She was quite brave to go as far as I wanted, so I did the most fashionable hairstyle for the moment."

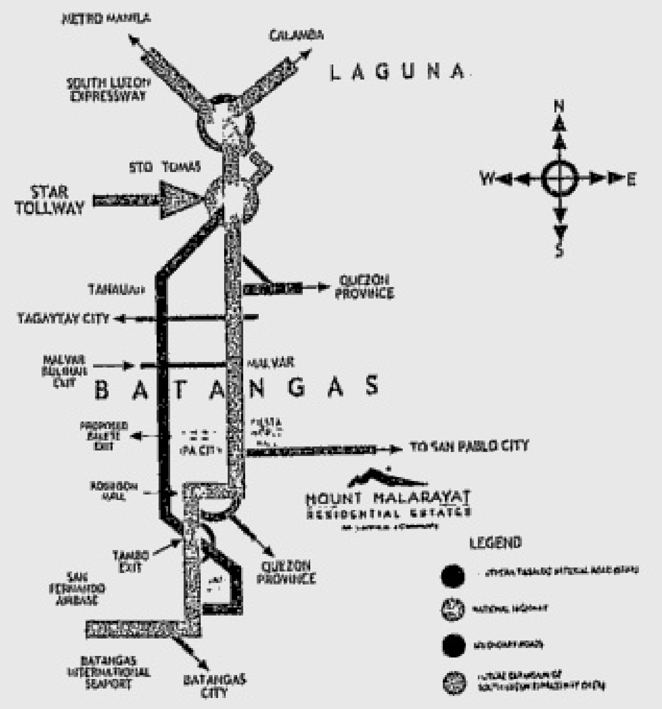
Bituin, by the way, will play Asaka, the goddess of the earth in Actors' Actors' Inc. production of "Once on this Island," which will run from May 13 to 22 at the Carlos Romulo Auditorium at the RCBC Plaza.



MAKEUP BY CHASTINE ISIDRO


GREET THE NEIGHBORS FROM
YOUR BACKYARD.

Phase II properties in Batangas' premier golf and leisure community now available to a select few.


METRO MANILA
CALAMBA
LAGUNA
SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY
STO TOMAS
STAR TOLLWAY
N
W
E
S
QUEZON PROVINCE
TANAUAN
TAGAYTAY CITY
MALVAR BULIHAN EXIT
MALVAR
BATANGAS
TO SAN PABLO CITY
MOUNT MALARAYAT RESIDENTIAL ESTATES
TAMBO EXIT
SAN FERNANDO AMBASE
QUEZON PROVINCE
BATANGAS INTERNATIONAL SEAPORT
BATANGAS CITY
LEGEND
NATIONAL HIGHWAY

MOUNT MALARAYAT
RESIDENTIAL ESTATES
An ACTIVEGROUP Community

ACTIVEGROUP
INCORPORATED

Call 893 7024 for inquiries • Email: sales@activegroup.com.ph • Log on to www.activegroup.com.ph
HLURB LICENSE TO SELL NO. 10261 R4A 04 07

Big-time 3 day savings at

5 SM Supermalls

on April 15 • 16 • 17

STORE HOURS 10 am to 10 pm

It's midsummer's bargain bash during the 3-day sale event at SM City Bicutan, SM City Cagayan De Oro, SM City Davao, SM City Marilao and SM City Lucena.

Adding greater value to fabulous shopping finds is the chance to win exciting raffle prizes with every P500 single or accumulated purchase at SM Department Store, Super SM Hypermarket, SM Supermarket or any participating mall establishment.

RAFFLE PRIZES AT STAKE

SM CITY BICUTAN
- 6 Units SUZUKI MOTORCYCLES

SM CITY MARILAO
- 3 Units SYM RV1 MOTORCYCLES

SM CITY LUCENA
- 3 Units SYM RV1 MOTORCYCLES

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
- 6 Units JVC color TV
- 6 Units GE REF with water dispenser

SM CITY DAVAO
- 6 Units PANASONIC REF with water dispenser
- 6 Units JVC color TV

up to 50% off

great selections mallwide

3day sale

april 15.16.17

mall hours 10am-10pm

Get a chance to WIN raffle prizes

with every P500 single or accumulated purchase at SM Department Store, [illegible] SM Hypermarket [illegible] participating mall establishment.

See mechanics posters for details.

SM City BICUTAN

SM City CAGAYAN de ORO

SM City DAVAO

SM City MARILAO

SM City LUCENA

6 JVC TVs
6 GE Ref w/ water dispenser

6 JVC TVs
& Panasonic Ref w/ water dispenser

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-173, Series of 2005

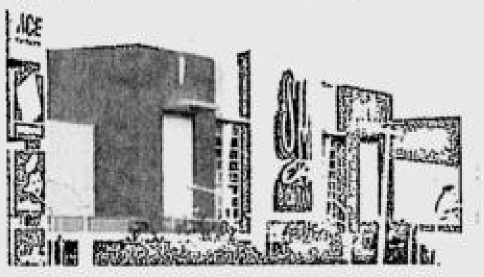
Per DTI-MOJI-X-036, Series of 2005

Per DTI-DCFO Permit No. 070, Series of 2005

Per DTI-Bulacan Permit No. 016, Series of 2005

Per DTI-Quezon Permit No. 029, Series of 2005

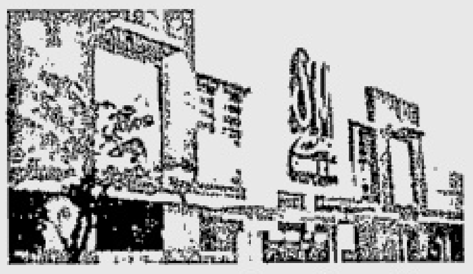
SM City bicutan
ONE-STOP CONVENIENCE



Centrally located along South Expressway, SM City Bicutan is the convenient one-stop neighborhood mall for near-South residents.

During the 3-day sale, SM City Bicutan offers shoppers great choices at super-reasonable prices. Plus the chance of winning in the daily raffle.

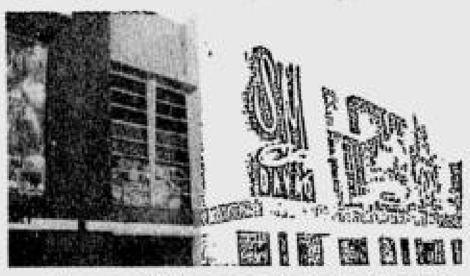
SM City cagayan de oro
TREATS GALORE FOR MALLERS



To entertain 3-day sale mallers, SM City Cagayan de Oro is presenting a Carnival event on Saturday, April 16 at 1pm. Watch out for announcements on other exciting live entertainment.

At the food and leisure centers, 3-day sale shoppers get a free Cheeky Curlz with every purchase of two tickets at **SM CINEMA**, while a free scoop of Nestle Ice Cream is offered with every purchase of P59, P79, or P99 Combo Meal at **SM FOODCOURT.**

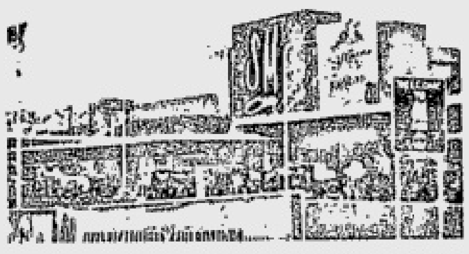
SM City davao
DYNAMIC SHOPPING HUB



Davao City's premiere mall once again lives up to its name as the dynamic shopping and leisure hub of the progressive province of Davao and its environs.

Exciting appliance prizes are at stake during the 3-day sale raffle.

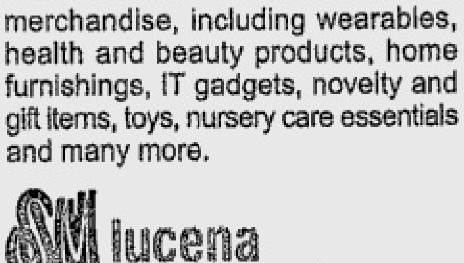
SM City marilao
CULTURAL SHOWCASE



Beyond the shopping needs of its patrons, SM City Marilao showcases the rich cultural and culinary wealth of the Bulakeños.

Shoppers are encouraged to take advantage of the attractive half price discounts on a wide choice of merchandise, including wearables, health and beauty products, home furnishings, IT gadgets, novelty and gift items, toys, nursery care essentials and many more.

SM City lucena
BIG DISCOUNTS IN EVERY CORNER



At SM City Lucena, you'll be delighted to discover great bargain buys at almost every corner. Plus the fun chance of winning one of 3 RV1 dual sports motorcycles from SYM in the daily raffle on April 15, 16 and 17.

SM City Lucena's latest directory of tenants includes: Sun Cellular, Showcase Carpet, Osh Kosh B'Gosh, Freshaire Hair Straightening Centre, HBC,Polland Hopia, Star Ink Shop and Edlice Medicinal.

Super

[illegible]@inquirer.com.ph

[illegible] message to [illegible] or 283 (Smart)

Editor [illegible] Pastor

[illegible]tive Director Tim Yap

pop culture . entertainment . [illegible]

How to make your own sex video page E1

What to do when Saturn returns page D2

Not your typical Intramuros tour page F1

So you want to be a writer? page G1

Photography: VICTOR CONSUNJI
Styling: CHARMAINE PALERMO
Makeup: LEO POSADAS
Cover Star: MARILEN FAUSTINO

L'ORÉAL PARIS
DERMO-EXPERTISE

OILY SKIN WITH IMPERFECTIONS
In 3 quick steps, knock out imperfections.
For pure, clear skin.

PURE ZONE
CONTINUOUS PURITY

Step 1 EXFOLIATE skin deeply
Step 2 CLARIFY +tighten pores
Step 3 MATTIFY +moisturize

1ST CONTINUOUS ACTION PURIFYING PROGRAMME

1 Exfoliates skin deeply: clears impurities, excess sebum and dead cells.
2 Clarifies, tightens pores and dries out imperfections.
3 Mattifies to prevent skin regreasing and moisturizes throughout the day.

Innovative combination of:
Salicylic Acid: for its exfoliating and purifying power.
Sebo-Calmyl™: for its sebo-regulating and soothing action*
Look for advice on www.lorealparis.com

DERMO-EXPERTISE.
FROM RESEARCH TO BEAUTY.

BECAUSE YOU'RE WORTH IT.

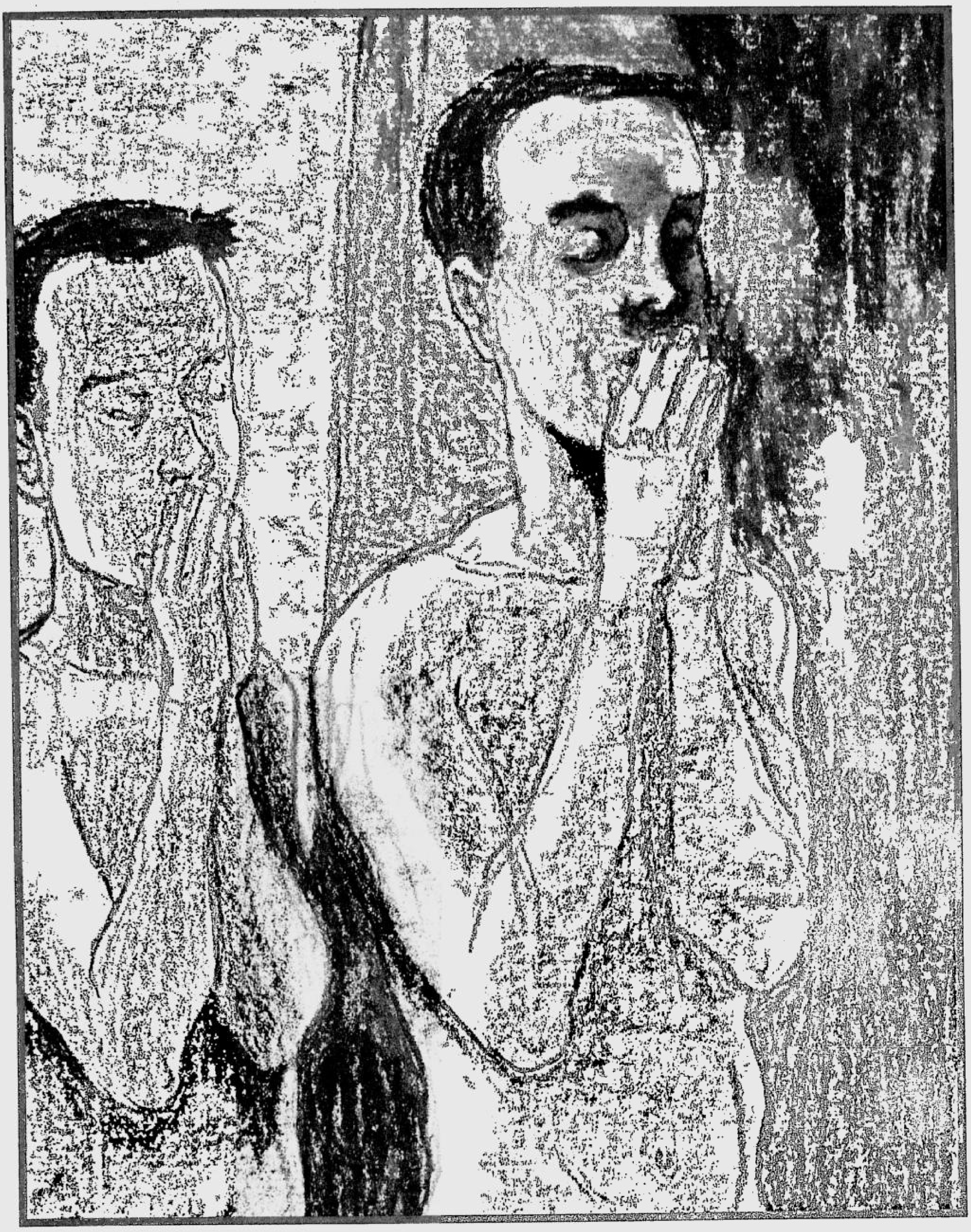
FROM 15 YEARS OLD, CONTINUOUS PURITY.

L'ORÉAL PARIS

Knock out imperfections easily with Pure Zone 50 ml packs.

Pure Zone Deep Exfoliating Gel ₱159*
Pure Zone Purifying Gel ₱129*

*suggested retail price
NEW
MICRO-BEADS TO UNCLOG PORES
PURE ZONE
DEEP EXFOLIATING GEL WASH
Unblocks pores
Removes dead skin cells
PURIFYING CLARIFYING TONER
Enhances skin radiance
Dries out imperfections
SEBO-CALMYL™ + SALICYLIC ACID
OIL FREE



The Return of The Rings

Saturn strips away illusions and points out limitations

By Katrina Holigores
Original artwork by Jason Moss

THIRTY. The number seems to strike fear, dread and anxiety in most people. Male or female, one should have, must have, done this, bought that, had this, reached here, gone there etc. When the late 20's hit, there is a maniacal assessment of one's social, financial, physical, economic and even spiritual station in life. Being past 30 I look bemusedly and with much sympathy at those who are going through what I once was. Unlike many of my peers, I was actually looking forward to hitting the Big 3-0. Not because I was right on track with everything I wanted to achieve, but because of a little known planetary pattern that astrologers have come to call "The Saturn Return."

The what? The Saturn Return, and yes I am referring to the original Lord of the Rings (sorry Tolkien) and it's "return." To be more specific, the first time Saturn completes its cycle through your birth chart and returns to the spot it occupied when you were born. Without getting too technical Saturn is the sixth planet from the Sun and the second largest in diameter in astronomical terms but is known as "The Great Teacher" in astrological ones. It completes a cycle approximately once every 29 years, and its energies are believed to be the cause of why those years approaching 30 seem so messed up!!

If you are 30 and over, look back at your life between the ages of 27 ½ to 29 ½, if you are between 27-30 or are close to someone who is, stop and read this, please. I can assure you that it's not going to be a sermon, and you can of course come to your own conclusions and use this editorial to train your dog. But, if it does spark an "Oh man, so THAT'S why....?!!" reaction, then do more research on The Saturn Return because it doesn't just come once, but even thrice in a lifetime. The last cycle may catch you at 87, and honey, you had better have learned the lessons by then, or you are going to be one cantankerous old goat! (smile) Although a surly 28-year-old or a 58-year-old is still pretty unpleasant.

What exactly happens during the ages of 27-30 (I'm lazy, so let's just round the numbers off)? Hmmm, why don't you tell me? Perhaps you're in a relationship now, everything blissful, perfect...and yet...you just want to be left ALONE, your partner doesn't UNDERSTAND you, you feel like you don't know whether to STAY or LEAVE. How about work? Normally you content, all of a sudden there are other offers or major changes abound. You feel you're being pulled in all directions, the career path you've chosen is unfulfilling, your colleagues or your business partner PISS YOU OFF, or worse, you have just decided that life behind a desk is hell compared to making beaded underwear for a living. But so what? Life is nothing if one is not happy right?

Basically, on a whole you're going nuts. The normal you is almost unrecognizable, your family, your colleagues, your romantic partner and friends see you turning into something different, and they're right. Saturn asks you to "break" old patterns in your life, in order to sit your ass down, look you in the eye and say "Grow up, or get out."

True adulthood and wisdom are obligatory, because Saturn strips away illusions and points out limitations, allowing you to view yourself in a harsh, often unflattering light. At the same time, it endows you with prudence, practicality, and the perseverance to work hard toward achieving your purposes. When friends who are 27-30 or are dating someone of that age ask me advice about their current relationship (especially when it involves marriage) I shake my head and tell them to WAIT the period out.

But why, why, why? You moan. Because what is normally begun during this period is not long lasting. Relationships that have withstood distances, parental disapproval, racial and religious differences can fall flat when one goes through this period. The people and situations that enter your life in this season are literally being "used" by the Universe to teach YOU a lesson.

You may even befriend someone suddenly who has recently passed a Saturn Return, because they know "exactly how you feel" even on a subconscious level.

If you, on the other hand have a friend who is going through his or her return, then you have to be the patient and understanding one, it is not an easy time. They'll be a little psycho, and trust me, so were you (ask your older friends or relatives). Sadly, 28-29 is the age when most suicides occur, because instead of growing up, the individual gives up. (yikes)

Ok, wait, wait, wait, before you decide that this article stinks and you had been better off reading about the latest vote off on American Idol hear me out. There is good news...this phase is temporary, and it's always for the best, because that is what change is for, the chance to renew, to rediscover and to recreate the path this is meant for your absolute peace of mind and peace of heart.

Saturn brings to your attention what is important to you, to fill a void. Think of Saturn as that teacher you had in school, the one who was super strict, but knew his stuff, so even if the lessons were hard, you learned from him the most. That's what this planet is attempting to do with you, and it is a worthwhile education.

So what now? Should you dump the person, friend, career if it is indeed occurring during your Saturn Return? That is up to you. Let me clarify that the life lessons you have to endure are directly correlated to the quality of life you have lived during your 29 years. If you learn the lessons quickly, and take them to heart then the dramas won't be as dramatic. Know this, that if you truly, truly love who you are with, and what you are doing, then this is just a bump on the road. And when you hit your 30s you can, like me, look back, with a smile and say "Phew! Thanks for the lesson!" See you again in 29 years.

Fashion fever heats up at Eastwood City

See the best summer finds—sexiest swimsuits, the funkiest flip-flops, and the coolest accessories at the Fashion Flaunt Exhibit

GLITZ and fun unite at the country's premier satellite city with its three tiers of fashion and fun-filled events until April 20 at Eastwood City, Libis.

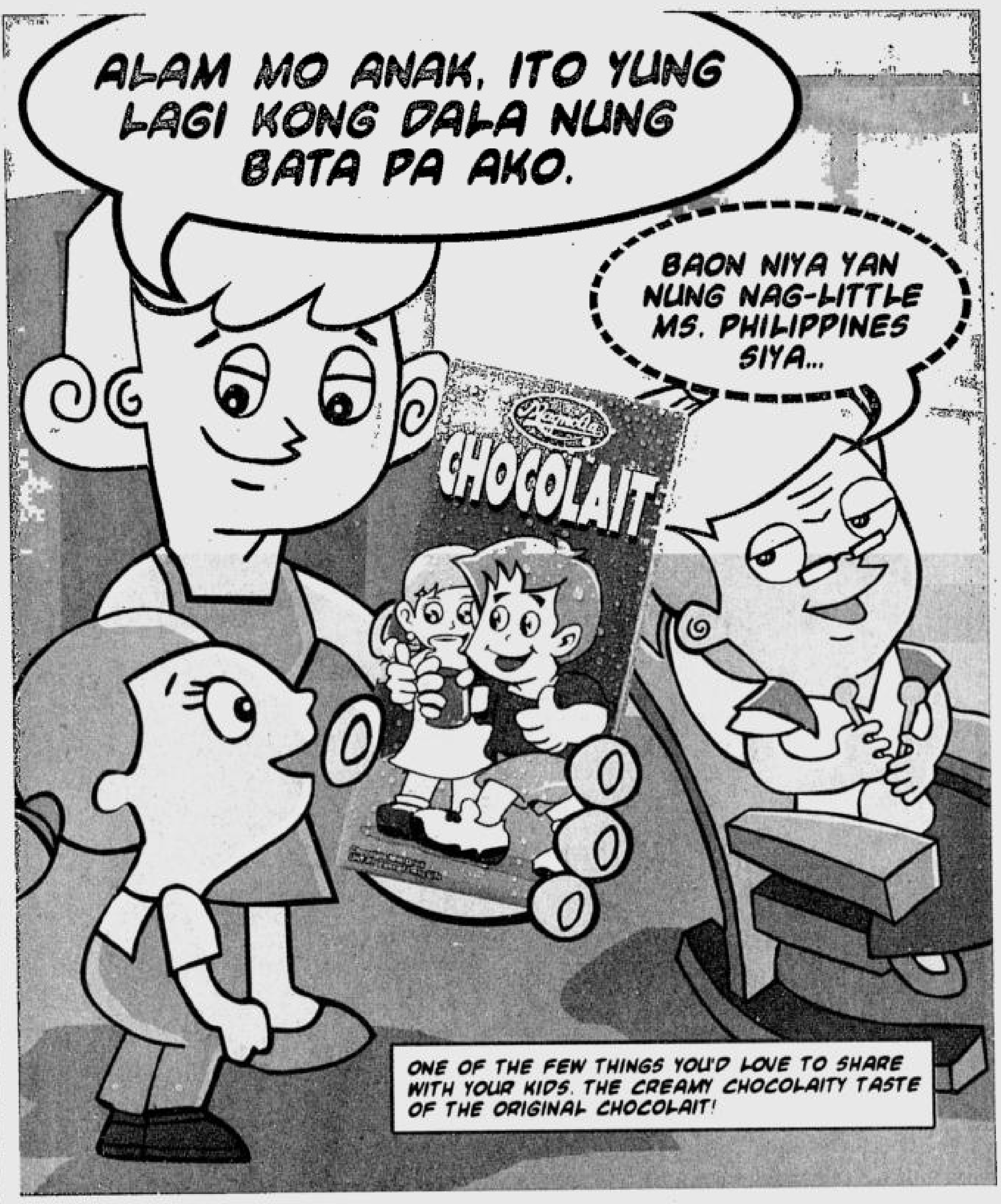
See the best summer finds—sexiest swimsuits, the funkiest flip-flops, and the coolest accessories at the Eastwood City Fashion Flaunt Exhibit until April 20. The Fashion Flaunt is a bohemian-beach inspired interactive exhibit highlighting Eastwood City Walk 2's summer collections. Latest Havaianas flip-flops from Chocolate, swimsuits from Speedo, accessories from Planet Silver, and summer ensembles from Bayo will be on display as inspiration for your summer getaway. Complete the "summer feel" with Body Shop's free hand massage and summer look make-over and have a glittered tattoo on Saturday, April 16, courtesy of Planet Silver.

For those who really want to dive into the summer fashion pool, Eastwood City together with Jam 88.3, Magic 89.9, and Wave 89.1 bring together a one of a kind summer fashion show until April 16. Make your hot evenings hotter celebrating what's in and what's out in the fashion circuit, featuring popular and up and coming models, and showcasing the retail shops at Eastwood City Walk 2 such as Porcupine, Details Trading, Chocolate, Ensembles, and Marithe Francois Girbaud.

And what's the best way to celebrate fashion? Through shopping, right? Look no further with the Eastwood City-Wide Sale happening until April 17. Shop for fashionable clothes, to-die-for jewelry, unique gift items or high-tech gadgets all at sale up to 50 percent discount. And not only that, even the restaurants of Eastwood City are all on "sale!" Only here at Eastwood City can you get freebies and enjoy special discounts as you dine from all of its food establishments during the 3-day City-wide sale.

Stroll along the Mediterranean-inspired City Walk 1 and 2, with its quaint shops set amidst the colonnaded archways, graceful swaying palms, pocket parks, and bubbling water fountains feel a cool atmosphere in this warm sunny days. A home to a select collection of the most popular and most sought-after brands, both local and imported, Eastwood City treats everyone to a summer fashion lovin' this April. Be in step with fashion and be hot this summer with Eastwood City's Summer Fashion Festival.

THEIR SPORT, THEIR LIVES
FILA's newest set of Super! peeps—model slash TV host Bianca Araneta, tennis champ Chase Tinio, basketball player JR Wacker, race-car institution Pepon Marave and model Robby Mananquil—were introduced at the Fila Polo Cup, which was held at the Manila Polo Club.


ALAM MO ANAK, ITO YUNG LAGI KONG DALA NUNG BATA PA AKO.
BAON NIYA YAN NUNG NAG-LITTLE MS. PHILIPPINES SIYA...
CHOCOLAIT
ONE OF THE FEW THINGS YOU'D LOVE TO SHARE WITH YOUR KIDS. THE CREAMY CHOCOLAITY TASTE OF THE ORIGINAL CHOCOLAIT!

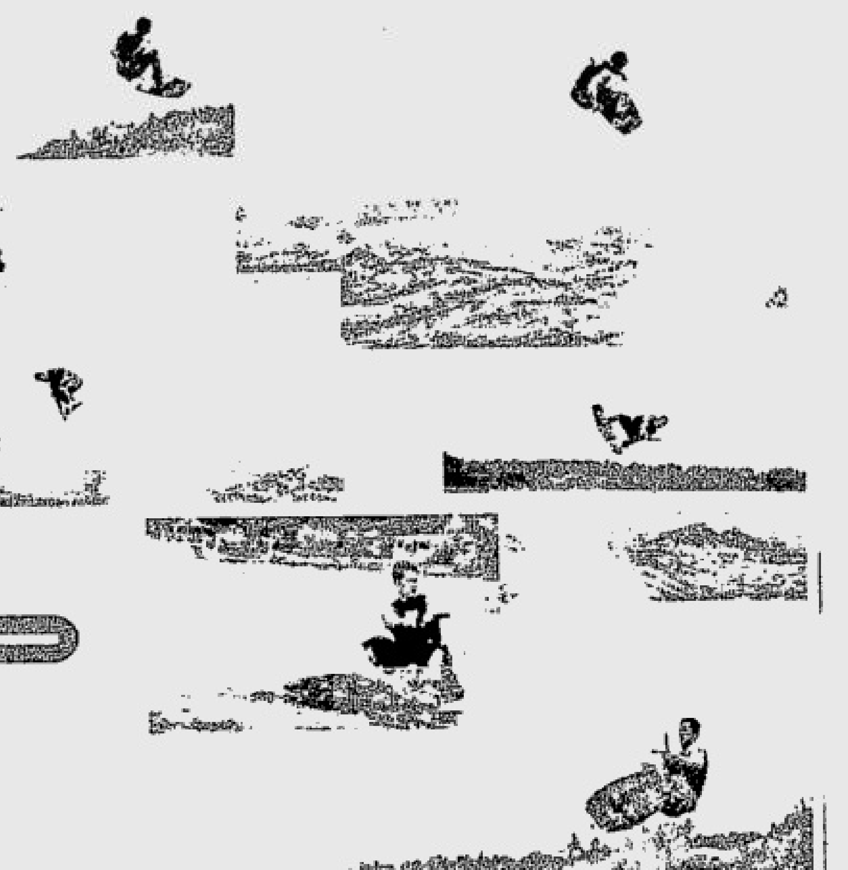
High Flying Thrills
The AMP Wakeboarding
Competition and Exhibition

Witness the face of every wakeboarder after nailing some air on a jump: it's beyond stoked, it's closer to nirvana. And it's no easy thing these guys do, travelling at close to 30 knots, hitting a bump at just the right moment and then timing the landing perfectly. All this with a few twists and turns in between; it's no wonder that wakeboarding has attracted its own community of followers.

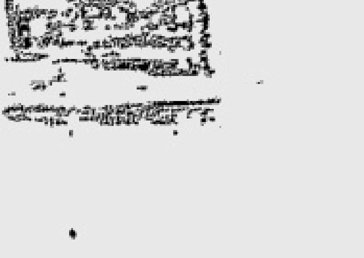
And so April 9 and 10, 2005 became the biggest dates on any wakeboarder's calendar with the Addict Mobile Prepaid (AMP) Wakeboarding Competition and Exhibition at the Flamingo Resort on picturesque Taal Lake, Batangas. The otherwise placid lake had its surface crisscrossed with riders and their boats carving up the water.

Every mobile sportsfan on and off the water can have his share of downloadable fun as AMP takes its tricks on the road, ever the powerful sponsor at these radical sport events. It was all in the spirit of AMP fun and daring when international as well as local wakeboarding talent flew on water and wind.

AMP gives you front row seats at these exciting events as well as the coolest deals for the apres-sports crowd including the best cutting edge mobile phones and one-of-a-kind downloads, and of course the most amazing parties in town. Meanwhile, as the local tawilis of Lake Taal can once more swim in quiescent waters, the AMP Wakeboarding Team heads off to the next rip-roaring venue...

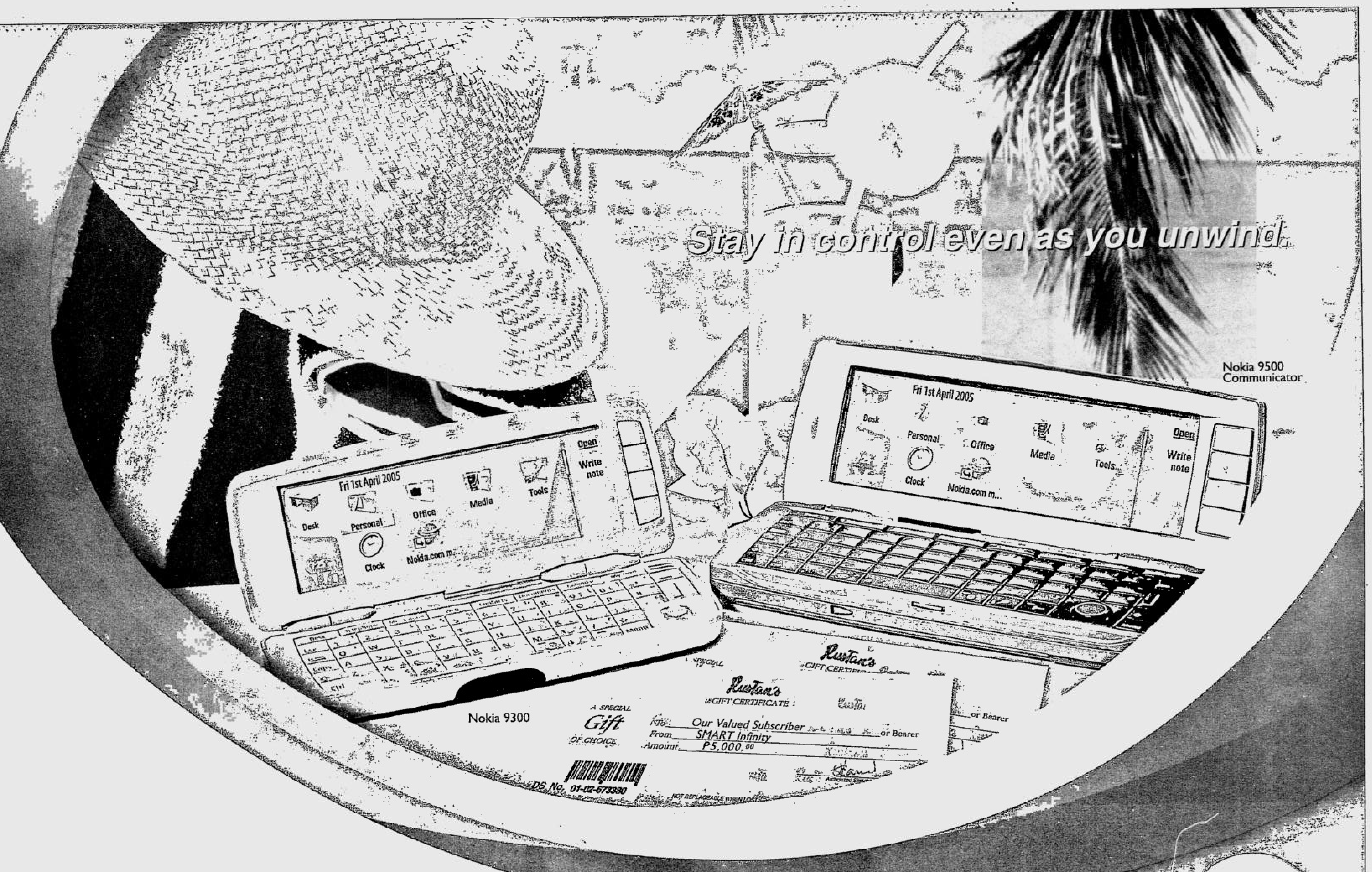


Daniel Pyne waxes wakeboarding philosophy for the TV crowd



Tatsanai Kuakoonrat, Asian X-Games competitor, Paolo Araneta, AMP Wakeboarder, Daniel Pyne, Australian Cable champion

SMART infinity
Enjoy life's best.


Stay in control even as you unwind.
Nokia 9500 Communicator
Fri 1st April 2005
Desk
Personal
Office
Media
Tools
Open
Write note
Clock
Nokia.com m...
Nokia 9300
Rustan's GIFT CERTIFICATE
A SPECIAL Gift OF CHOICE
Our Valued Subscriber
or Bearer
From SMART Infinity
Amount P5,000.00
DS No. 01-02-673380
NOT REPLACEABLE WHEN LOST

Avail of a Nokia 9500 Communicator or a Nokia 9300 under SMART Infinity and receive P5,000 worth of Rustan's gift certificates.

Whether you're relaxing by white-sand beaches with your peers or taking that luxury cruise with your family, you can still be on top of things at work. What with the total-communication features of the Nokia 9500 Communicator and the Nokia 9300.

The full-featured Nokia 9500 Communicator and the stylish Nokia 9300 are each equipped with:

- A full QWERTY keyboard with two 65,536-color displays.
- Advanced voice features such as hands-free speakerphone and conference call with mute functionality.
- 80MB of internal user memory plus 128MB hot-swap MMC (supports maximum of 2GB MMC).
- E-mail with attachments.
- Built-in music player, video player, and voice recorder.
- Supports high-speed connectivity via GPRS and EGPRS (EDGE).
- Bluetooth, Infrared, and Data connectivity.
- GSM Tri-band.

The Nokia 9500 Communicator also comes with:

- An integrated VGA camera.
- WLAN/WI-FI for e-mail and internet browsing.

For inquiries, call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111.

Subscribe to SMART Infinity and enjoy the convenience of:
- A Dedicated Infinity Management Officer to handle all details about your subscription.
- 24/7 Customer Service via SMART Infinity's exclusive Hotline Number *800.
- An International Concierge Service simply by dialling 63-SMART (63-76278).

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2005

PHILIPPINE DA Y IN UIRE

Super 2

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer sup name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

[Sex] Video Killed the TV Star

Whisper the "Sex" –it's a conservative country

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

AND ON the seventh day, God created the sex video to entertain man... and to give stars the chance to say, *"Hindi ako 'yan*, Tito Boy!"

Does anybody need an introduction to sex videos? They're so pop now, they've started to teach little preschool kids what sex videos are (or they show it on primetime TV, which is actually the same thing).

Sex videos cost almost nothing to produce (not counting your reputation—which means nothing in the Philippines anyway)—they're entertaining, and the demand for them is so great they get played on the top networks in our country (that means two networks). Which is why we're wondering why no one thought of making them before—like in the 30s, when Pops Fernandez was still in her forties.

They are affordable forms of entertainment, and can be watched over and over again—whether you're happy, angry, or horny. And if you go by the motto, "At least it's not drugs," sex videos are wholesome forms of entertainment.

And now you can ride the wave and produce your own quality sex videos. Contribute to the growth of Philippine cinema! Film the act of copulation and show why people should respect you. Get your parents, your little sister, and Aling Juanita involved—the top networks have already started making it a family affair anyway.

Forget film school—here's your Super! guide to Metro Manila Film Fest Philippines fame. (We're not kidding, somebody actually thought of putting Philippines after MMFF.)

[Sex] Video Production Pointers

1 Experiment with different angles and shots—close-ups are good, don't be too far away from the subject. Zooming is so passé, try using a dolly or a Steady Cam. Bird's-eye-view is the new it-thing (pun not intended). But whatever you do, try to keep the camera steady—use a tripod for most shots, only use those shaky shots for, like, effect.

2 Play with the lighting before you shoot. Your subject must be seen. Lighting can also make people or things look bigger, just in case your stars aren't well endowed. Do not shoot against the light—silhouette shots are so Imbestigador-ish.

3 Good sound is the key to a good video. If you don't have fancy sound equipment, attach a microphone to your camera, and insert the microphone head into a pole. Push and pull it in and out the pole until it sticks. Point the pole at your subject.

4 Try to settle your actors before the shoot. Hold nudity workshops. Film those workshops—for educational purposes, and sell them on eBay.

5 If you can't get an *artista* to star in your video, name your film something like this: "<Name of School> Scandal"—*benta yan!* But instead of drawing inspiration from Taft, try Katipunan—you've like, three schools to choose from.

gentxt
ROCK 'N ROLL BA TRIP MO?
RIVERMAYA & KITCHIE NADAL
LIVE AT THE ARANETA • APRIL 16, 2005, 8PM

Gentxt Exclusive

Get 10% OFF concert tickets!

Just present your active Globe Handyphone at any Ticketnet outlet from April 13 to 16, 2005.
Each Gentxter can purchase a maximum of ten (10) tickets.
Promo period: April 13-16,2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2061, Series of 2005.

Rock with these exclusive Rivermaya and Kitchie Nadal downloads!

WALLPAPERS
Text MMS <keyword> to 2949
Rate P20.00
Example: Text MMS RIVERMAYA to 2949

RICO MARK MIKE JAPS RIVERMAYA COVER

ICONS
Text L <keyword> to 2949
Rate P15.00
Example: Text L RIVER1 to 2949

RIVER1 RIVER2 RIVER3 RIVER4

TEXT CARDS
Text TC <keyword> to 2949
Rate P15.00
Example: Text TC RICO to 2949

RICO MARK JAPS MIKE

Activate MMS and GPRS on your phone now!
1. For a list of compatible handsets, send NOKIA, ERICSSON or SAMSUNG (depending on your handset model) to 2365. Regular text messaging charges apply.
2. Text GO <handset model> to 2951 to get your phone's settings. Ex. GO N3650. For Nokia 6170, 6600, 6230,6820, 7260, 7270 and 7610 text GO <handset model>, 1234 to 2951. Ex. For Nokia 6600 text GO N6600,, 1234. Make sure that you type in the two commas before the 1234 PIN.
3. Enter 1234 when asked for PIN to save the settings.
4. Send an MMS message for only P5.00 to activate the service.

RINGTONES
For Ringtones, text N <keyword> to 2949 Rate P15.00
For Polytones, text MMS <keyword> to 2949 Rate P20.00
Example: Text N LIWANAG to 2277

TITLE	KEYWORD
LIWANAG SA DILIM	LIWANAG
YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE	SAFE
BALISONG	BALISONG
UMAARAW UMUULAN	ARAW
SHATTERED LIKE	SHATTERED
WAGNAWAG	WAGNAWAG
BULONG	BULONG

RINGBACK
To download ringback, text <keyword> to 2332.
Ex. Text RA206 to 2332. Rate: P30/download for 30 days.P2.50 per info request.

TITLE	KEYWORD
AWIT NG KABATAAN	RA206
214	RA205
ULAN	RA204

Text RIVERMAYA to 2277
For complete list of downloads.

B 1 OF US! Text LINK to 2277 now!
Visit www.gentxt.com.ph

TICKETNET
CALL 911-5555

making great things possible 4 u Globe HANDYPHONE

DOWNLOAD THESE COOL NEW MOBILE GAMES THIS SUMMER FROM GIBEON GAMEPORT !!!

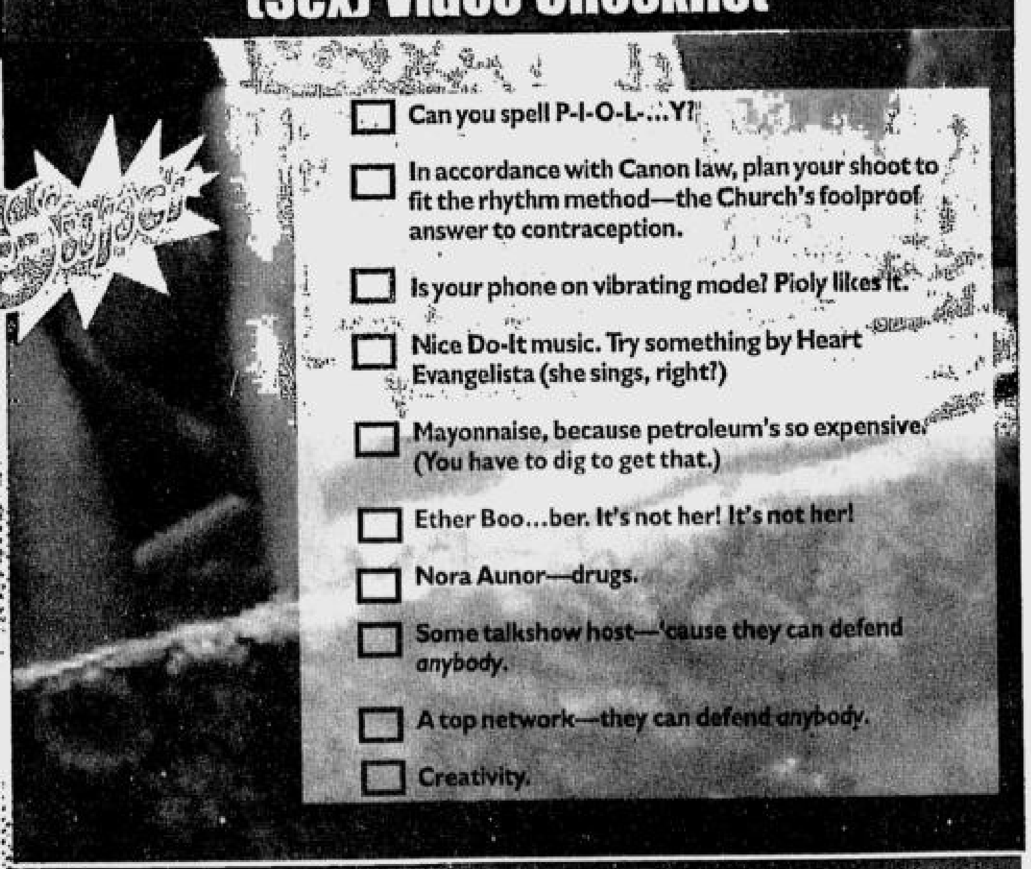
TO DOWNLOAD VIA WAP: CLICK ON SMARTWAP>AMAZINGSTUFF>GAMESTATION>GIBEONGAMEPORT. PHP 30.00 PER DOWNLOAD SERVICE POWERED BY GIBEON TECHNOLOGIES

SMART

[Sex] Video

From page E1

[Sex] Video Checklist



- ☐ Can you spell P-I-O-L-...Y?
- ☐ In accordance with Canon law, plan your shoot to fit the rhythm method—the Church's foolproof answer to contraception.
- ☐ Is your phone on vibrating mode? Pioly likes it.
- ☐ Nice Do-It music. Try something by Heart Evangelista (she sings, right?)
- ☐ Mayonnaise, because petroleum's so expensive. (You have to dig to get that.)
- ☐ Ether Boo...ber. It's not her! It's not her!
- ☐ Nora Aunor—drugs.
- ☐ Some talkshow host—'cause they can defend *anybody*.
- ☐ A top network—they can defend *anybody*.
- ☐ Creativity.

[Sex] Videos We'd All Like to See

1. Madame Auring Does Her Crystal Ball Scandal
2. Mike Arroyo and His Beeyatch Scandal
3. St. Gregory School for the Blind Scandal
4. Camille Pratts and Her Arms Scandal
5. Whatever Happened to the That's Entertainment Thursday Group DVD
6. What Happened to Mike Enriquez's Nose Scandal (it's just so... big)
7. What Jolo Revilla Did Last Summer
8. Anne Curtis After a Half-Bottle of GSM Blue Scandal (muted, we don't want to hear her "Anne cute mo!" squeaks)
9. Jolina's Last Hurrah
10. Jolina's Last Hurrah Part 2

A rundown of Metro Manila's nocturnal favorites

By Janine Cuenca-Dario

LAST week, 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator Magazine honored the very best in Metro Manila's scintillating nightlife through its Nokia 24/7 Nocturnal Awards 2005 at a glittering ceremony held in the posh Manila Polo Club.

This annual awards night acknowledged the hard work and dedication of all the people that have transformed this metropolis into a pulsating and frenetic urban playground.

The nominees and winners were chosen from a poll conducted via SMS from Dec. 2004 to February. This week, we take you on a tour of some of Metro Manila's sizzling best!

Saturday, April 16

The Best Design of a Restaurant or Bar winner was M Café, [Greenbelt 4, Makati Avenue, Phone 757-3000]. Catch Favorite Live Act nominee Kitchie Nadal perform with Rivermaya tonight at the Araneta Coliseum

Swingin' Saturdays w/ Boyet Almazan, Teak

Dance Deluxe, Embassy

Flava'D w/ Rocky Rock & Shorty, Absinth

Dancehall Saturdays, V Bar

DJ Mark of San Diego, Prince of Jaipur

Savagely Sexy Saturdays, Bed

Kearny Street, Dusit Hotel

Nyoy Volante, Captain's Bar

Pink Saturday, Government

Sunday, April 17

Restaurant or Bar with the Best Restroom was awarded to Nuvo [G/F, Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati, Phone 757-3698, 757-3699]. Check out Nuvo's bathroom—and see the action inside.

Paseo Uno Trio, Paseo Uno

Zulu-zulu exhibit, Alliance Française

Michel Herbert exhibit, UP Vargas Museum

Introspection exhibit, Alliance Française

Monday, April 18

For Favorite Live Music Venue, the one that garnered the most votes was Dish [The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City, Phone 413-0603/09] which has its Dance Nights every Monday.

I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro, Gweilos

24/7 Nocturnal Navigator

Janine Cuenca-Dario

Rock/Motown: Mondaze, Absinth

Acoustic Night, Temple

Side A, Hyatt Hotel

Freestyle, Tavern on the Square

Jazz Trio, Captain's Bar

Follies de Mwah, Club Mwah!

Tuesday, April 19

Voted Favorite Dish was the Chocnut Ice Cream of Uva [G/F, Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati, Phone 757-4243 /44]. Grab a friend today and get a taste of this award-winning dish.

Eclectic: Top DJ's Jam, Absinth

Ebony Grooves w/ Stephen Ku & Johnny Verse, V Bar

Spirit of 67, Captain's Bar

Side A, 19 East

Follies de Mwah, Club Mwah!

Zulu-zulu exhibit, Alliance Française

Michel Herbert exhibit, UP Vargas Museum

Wednesday, April 20

Favorite Bar was Café Havana [G/F, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati, Phone 757-4370/71] and on Wednesdays, Arriba band gets you into that Latin state of mind!

Manolet Dario, V Bar

RnB/Hip-hop: Superklasse, Embassy

Smooth Wednesdays w/ Steve Mills, Il Ponticello

Retro Nights, Prince of Jaipur

Steak Wednesdays w/ DJ Skratchmark, Absinth

Way Back Wednesdays, Bed

Kearny Street, Strumm's

Side A, Tavern on the Square

Jazz Trio, Captain's Bar

Thursday, April 21

The Favorite Restaurant award was given to Zong [Fort Pointe Building, Fort Square Plaza, Taguig, Phone 889-0479/72]. Make your reservations for Thursday.

Silk Thursdays w/ Miguel Ramirez, Temple

Reggae Night & DJ Patch, Absinth, Mkti

House: Phuture Thursdays w/ Cocoy Puyat, Bed

Cuervo Nation Night w/ Steven Love, Government

Jazz Trio, Captain's Bar

Zulu-zulu exhibit, Alliance Française

Michel Herbert exhibit, UP Vargas Museum

Friday, April 22

From being a non-entity in the days of disco, the DJ has emerged to be the new rock star of the new millennium. You can catch Favorite DJ awardee Manolet Dario at Teak Bistro [Power Plant Mall, Lopez

Superfriends

Text and Photos by David Milan

Want to be on Superfriends? Send your photos and contact numbers to david_milan@lycos.com

Raphael Dimacali
I am striving to: Become an honor student, athlete, and an officer of an organization in the Ateneo
To achieve that, I will: Have to be spiritually close to God, step out of my comfort zone, reach out to people, and of course, quit procrastinating
Email: rpd524@yahoo.com

Sari Lazaro
I'm striving to: Become a succesful entrepreneur in the fashion industry
To achieve that, I'll: Continue further studies abroad and find a job in the industry to hone my skills.
Email: sarilazaro@yahoo.com

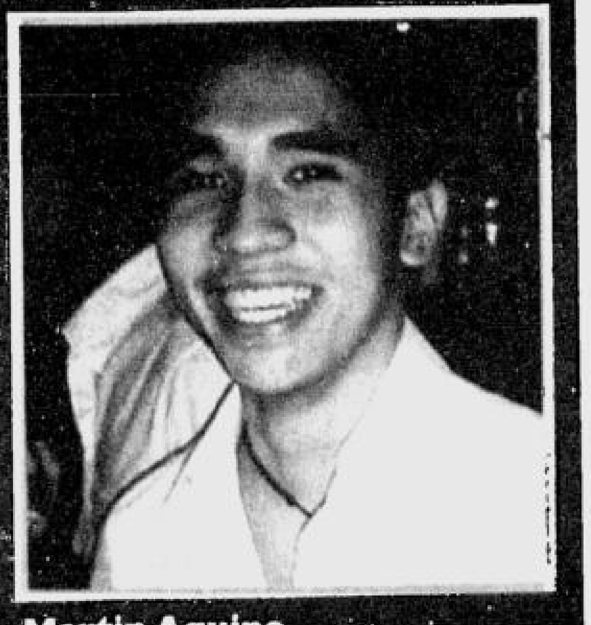
Precious Navarro
I am striving to: Get better in wakeboarding!
To achieve that, I will: Isolate myself from Manila and hit the beach till the summer ends
Email: precious.navarro@yahoo.com

Jacob Bautista
I am striving to: Create and organize a business that will profit my pocket!
To achieve that, I will: Spend less and starve myself to get the money I need for my future business
Email: jacob_bautista@hotmail.com

Mark Nicosia
I am striving to: Become a CPA on weekdays and an electronic music aficionado on weekends
To achieve that, I will: Sleep 8 hours, work 8 hours and play 8 hours, trifecta!
Email: mark.nicosia@gmail.com

Doraine Cuaso
I am striving to: Be someone my son and I can be proud of
To achieve that, I will: Live by my philosophy of "NO GUTS, NO GLORY"
Email: dorainecuaso@gmail.com

Shaun Montelibano
I am striving to: become a great graphic designer. Check out www.shaunster.multiply.com
To achieve that, I will: Excell in my field of studies with diligence and discipline
Email: shaunmontelibano@yahoo.com



Martin Aquino
I am striving to: Be a rich and corrupt politician and eventually become the president of the country...kidding!
To achieve that, I will: Sacrifice burnt offerings and dance naked under the sun

Drive, Rockwell Center, Phone 898-3365, 898-3429] every Friday night this month.

Patti Austin & Martin Nievera, Araneta Coliseum

Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan, Jill's HouSessions w/ Manolet Dario, Teak Musik, Embassy
Steve Mills, V Bar
Halo & DJ Aryan, Phi Bar
Fantastic Fridays, Prince of Jaipur
U-Turn, Tapika
Fat Session, Tavern on the Square
Gogo Fridays, Bed
Bam del Valle, Government

Entertainment-hungry foreigners the world over recognize the immense talent of Filipinos. In several cities abroad, it's widely known that clubs need only advertise that a "Filipino band" is performing and audiences will come flocking in droves! Fortunately for us back home, local acts absolutely dripping with talent still abound, ever ready to help us party and sing the night away. Favourite Live Act was the young, versatile and talented Sound. Check their website at www.sound.ph for their updated gig schedules.

Schedules may change without prior notice. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules every Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com or fax number 892-0689.

Sony Unveiled the Super Slim-line Cyber-shot DSC-T7 at the 8th Philippine Fashion Week

A Fusion of the Latest Technology and Style

The whole Philippine fashion industry witnessed the finale event of the 8th Philippine Fashion week as Sony launched its slimmest digital camera in the market, the Sony Cyber-shot DSC-T7.

In response to the rising demand for a digital still camera that incorporates the latest high-end features in a stylish, super-slim body comes the elegant 5.1 Mega-pixel Sony Cyber-shot DSC-T7. An upgrade from the Sony Cyber-shot DSC-T3, this newest member to the T-series is a real head-turner and, at just 9.8 mm in depth, is the most slim-line in its class. Filipinos have come to appreciate the seamless marriage of style and function in their life, the features must be superior and the look of their gadgets makes a statement about their lifestyle choice.

Especially during this summer season when family and friends go on vacation, the Sony Cyber-shot is the perfect pocket companion to capture these precious moments. The Cyber-shot T7 is available in silver and black stainless steel casing so you can be assured of durability and portability. This compactness allows users to carry their Cyber-shot T7 with them at all times in their pockets or clutch purses. Having the Cyber-shot T7 always at hand means you will never miss the chance in documenting the important events in you life.

Picture-Perfect Images

With a 5.1 effective Mega-pixel Super HAD CCD and the cutting-edge Sony Real Imaging Processor powering it, the Cyber-shot T7 is a definite crowd-pleaser with the high-quality and detailed images it produces. Users will never have to worry themselves with not recognizing that face in the back of a photo again, as the 3x Optical Zoom enables the capture of distant background objects. The camera's approximately 12x Smart Zoom (at VGA resolution) also gives the user the option of cropping a 'picture within a picture', without compromising its quality. Another feature of the Cyber-shot T7 that will delight many is its ability to take bursts of up to four full-resolution images at three frames-per-second.

In addition, the camera allows its users to record high-resolution video in MPEG Movie VX Standard and Fine modes, of up to 640x480 pixel resolution at 30 frames per second, with recording time limited only by the capacity of the memory media card being used. This is good news to those who want to capture moving images to go along with their still pictures or add video comments to snapshots.

LCD Clarity Redefined

The latest in Sony engineering has paved the way for a Transreflective Clear Photo LCD screen that offers you higher resolution, brightness and colour range for a more detailed viewing. The 2.5-inch, 230K pixel LCD screen prevents light from reflecting off its surface, allowing the Cyber-shot T7 to deliver brilliant colours and exceptional clarity under all lighting conditions - perfect for that candid shot in a dimly-lit club, or that quick snap at the beach.

The Versatile Choice

With the high-end features of its award-winning cousins, the Cyber-shot T1 and Cyber-shot T3, this ultra-slim beauty promises its users the same versatility of its predecessors. It offers simplicity for amateurs, a wide-range of features for more-advanced photographers, and flawless image quality for both.

The Cyber-shot T7 has sophisticated auto-focus and auto-exposure options to help get the picture right the first time. It allows users to choose from ten settings to match the scene - whether it's twilight, portrait, landscape, snow, beach or even fireworks - so it is easy to shoot high-quality images even in challenging lighting conditions. Users will also find the magnifying glass mode, with a 3.5 times magnification, a handy tool when viewing an image on the LCD screen. This allows one to see and capture details that would otherwise be difficult to confirm with the naked eye or to ensure an image is not out-of focus before moving on to another subject.

Preserved Battery Life

The Cyber-shot T7 is equipped with Sony's NP-FE1 InfoLITHIUM battery, which can last through 160 shots under normal conditions. Coupled with the energy-saving features of the Real Imaging Processor, the camera ensures hours of hassle-free operation so one can concentrate on what's really important - capturing memories of friends and loved ones. Its extended battery life also means users never have to worry about when the battery will run out when painting the town red on a night out with friends.

Seamless Operation

The Cyber-shot T7 camera comes with an enhanced Pictbridge facility, which means you can select the print size of an image on the LCD screen and have the picture printed directly on a compatible printer, without the need for a computer. Each unit comes with a Cyber-shot station USB cradle, which gives you the convenience of transferring images to your computer, while charging your camera batteries at the same time. Another useful accessory that is bundled with the camera is the tripod adapter, which can be used with a tripod to prevent camera shakes and for the taking of self-timed images. The Cyber-shot T7 is sold with optional Memory Stick PRO DUO™ cards.

The Cyber-shot T7 is available within the week at Sony Square (Park Square 1) and in authorized Sony dealers nationwide at P 29,999.

Cyber-shot
Grand Allure Collection

(from L-R) Sarah Meier together with the first owners of the slimmest camera, Cyber-shot T7-- Fashion stylist Rosario Herrera, Model Rissa Samson, Fashion editor Jenni Epperson, and MTV VJ Colby Montero. Representing Sony Philippines during the Grand Allure Collection at NBC Tent are Twinkle Rafael (2nd from left), Product Manager of Personal Audio-Video Group, Yasuharu Nomura (center), Senior Manager of Cyber-shot Marketing for Sony Marketing Asia Pacific, and Ina Villanueva (far right), Cyber-shot Marketing Supervisor.

ADVT

Cyber-shot
SONY
Slim is in
Supermodels Bernie Guinto and Christine Bayer
DSC-T7
like.no.other™

PATIO PACIFIC
Boracay
(Formerly Pink Patio)

Php 5,715.00
per person
(twin sharing)
Valid until June 12, 2005

12/F Multinational Bancorp Centre
6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel: 845 2222 to 27
Email: sales@patiopacificboracay.com

"Hey Shoppers!
only BDO Shop More MasterCard
gives you More Rewards, More Shopping Value at SM"
ShopMore
BDO
5125 7110 7123
04/05 04/07
CHARLENE GONZALEZ
MasterCard
Now available in 4 delightful see-through colors!
Cool Blue

More Rewards Points!

- Earn as much as **6x** more rewards points at SM Supermarket, Super SM Hypermarket, SM Appliance Center and Our Home.
- Earn as much as **4x** more at SM Department Store, Ace Hardware and Toy Kingdom
- 1 Point = 1 Peso
- No expiry!

More Discounts and Privileges!

It's the smartest way to get more shopping values at:

All exclusively yours!

More Value on Installment Purchases!

Avail of the continuing installment promos of as low as **0%** interest at SM Appliance Center, Our Home, Toy Kingdom and Sports Central.

More Shopping Pleasures!

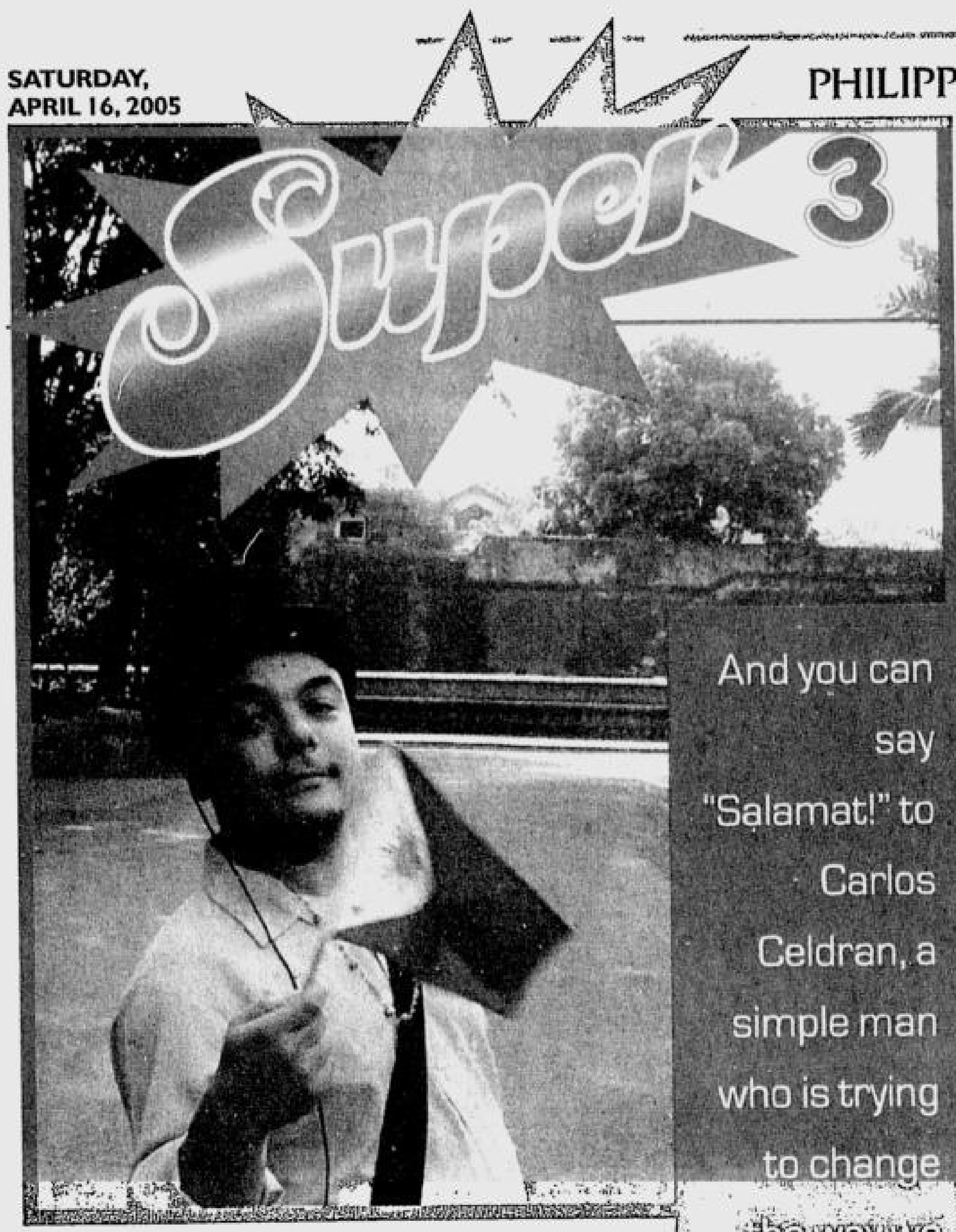
Choose the card color that suits your mood or personality – Cool Blue, Lucky Green, Dazzling Orange or Pretty Pink.

Comes with a **FREE** SM Advantage Card!

Apply now at selected SM Department Stores or at any BDO branch or call **631-8000** (within Metro Manila) or **1-800-10-6318000** (Domestic Toll-Free)
Initially available in Greater Metro Manila Area, Laguna, Cavite, Rizal, Bulacan, Pampanga and Cebu only.

BDO Consumer Lending Products: BDO Home Loan • BDO Auto Loan • BDO Personal Loan

BDO Credit Cards



And you can say "Salamat!" to Carlos Celdran, a simple man who is trying to change the way we see Manila one step at a time

This is not your typical Intramuros tour

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

CONTRARY to what you think, the Walled City of Intramuros is not that old. I repeat, not that old. Then again, age is relative and what may be totally Cretaceous in my books could very well be a steady shag for Ashton Kutcher. Pause. Okay, at least that—or something really close to it—was what I first learned from my crash course in Philippine history a few days ago.

THIS/ F2

It's more than just a credit card.

It's 0% interest* when you use Citibank PayLite.

0%
PayLite
INSTALLMENT PLAN

Anson EMPORIUM
APPLIANCE INSTALLMENT SHOWDOWN
April 8 to 18, 2005 • Glorietta Activity Center

Free 16" desk fan for the first 1,000
Citibank PayLite customers at the exhibit venue.
Exclusive to Citibank Cardholders.

PayLite
INSTALLMENT PLAN
*0% interest is available on great selections at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 & 24 month terms.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1177, Series of 2005

citibank

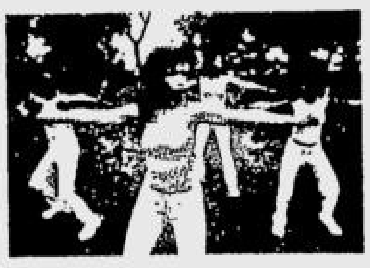
Forest Farms
Angono, Rizal
Your forest retreat in the city.

There's a haven waiting for you at Forest Farms, the place where you can do all the things you love most while being surrounded by nature.

Add to nature's amazing attractions with your own flower, herb or orchid garden.

Family picnics are definitely more thrilling when you spend it at The Kid's Grove campsite.

Exhilarating views add to the sensory outdoor experience for painting, sculpting and sketching.



Experience overall wellness at the meditation garden... your sacred spot for yoga and tai chi.

The Sports Facilities fulfill the promise of a resort lifestyle! Have a rock climbing adventure and enjoy complete access to badminton, swimming, basketball and tennis amenities at the neighboring Mission Hills community.

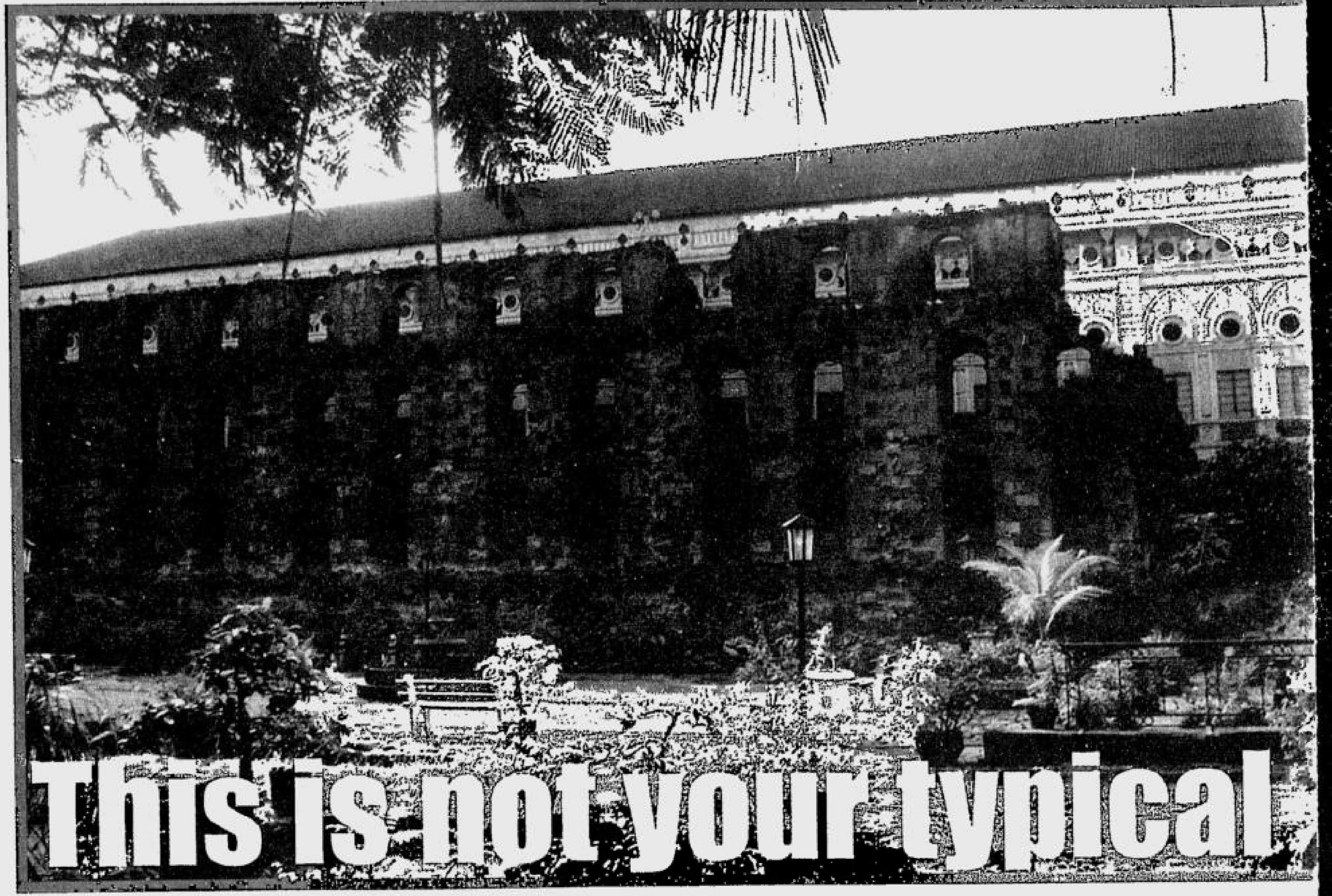
FOR ANNOUNCEMENT PURPOSES ONLY.
How to get there: Just a 5-minute drive from the Antipolo Church will bring you to this exclusive mountain retreat and nature park. Forest Farms is easily accessible from Sumulong Hi-way via M.L. Quezon Avenue going to Mission Hills. And from Ortigas Avenue Extension thru Manila East Road going to Don Mariano Santos Avenue.

723-6515
www.filinvestland.com
Forest Farms is a joint venture undertaking of Filinvest Land, Inc. with V.S. Narciso Realty Development Corp.

A residential resort community of
FILINVEST
EAST COUNTY

FORT Santiago, the country's first-ever gated community

TOURIST ALERT! Me outside the San Agustin Church



This is not your typical Intramuros to

From page F1

Part tour guide, part Vegas side show, Carlos Celdran took me and a dozen other culture vultures (some in-training) back in time through a walking safari around Intramuros. Jampacked with inside stories as well as streetwise insight, the two-hour tour—called "If These Walls Could Talk"—was history, politics and comedy at its Jon Stewart best. All it lacked was Rob Corddry. And a few Emmys. But moving on.

In the right hands, the past—and the swirling vortex of names, dates and facts that go with it—could be as riveting as "Arrested Development." (You know, something met with saucer-eyed enthusiasm instead of cynical moaning.) And with his Britney-type concert microphone and Pinoy flag, Carlos is the right dude for the job. (Warning: I have the memory, not to mention the emotional depth, of a can of tuna so I conveniently left out minor details, such as exact dates and the like, for you to Google.) After all, this is my Cliff's Notes version of his Cliff's Notes version of Intramuros. Enjoy.

Not Fort Bonifacio: Fort Santiago

Our traveling laboratory first took us to Fort Santiago, a 16th century military defense structure. The ground on which Manila was built is relatively new so the Fort's walls, made of *piedra china* or Chinese stone, were not local. They were actually imported from—could it be?—China.

"Basically most of Luzon [has a foundation of] limestone and coral. The only part of the Philippines that is part of Pangaea and has granite is Palawan," Carlos' mic boomed. Apparently, building a fortress out of porous materials like limestone and coral is like building a house out of cookies. (Yummy, but a bonehead idea.) Besides, bamboo was the only indigenous construction material during Rajah Humabon's time so the Spanish contractors had to shop at the Home Depot all the way in China. Psych.

Walking through the massive gate, we then parked under a tree to listen to stories about Jose Rizal's statue. No baller, Rizal was apparently a tiny, tiny man so the image we saw in the garden was not an accurate replica, but rather, a pimped out version of the national hero. Carlos revealed that he was definitely [only] 4 feet 11 inches, "much like President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo." Growth hormones and calcium supplements weren't invented yet so I guess peeps during his day looked a bit like Bilbo Baggins, Oh well.

A stretch limo *kalesa*, or horse-drawn carriage, brought us to our next stop, the San Agustin Church. There would've been seven (or so) more churches we could've posed in front of—I mean, visited. But because Manila was totally bitch-slapped during WWII, this place of worship is all that's left. The San Agustin Church was, however, enough to underscore how the Philippines was built largely by Catholicism and not by Spain.

Fools the eye: The San Agustin Church

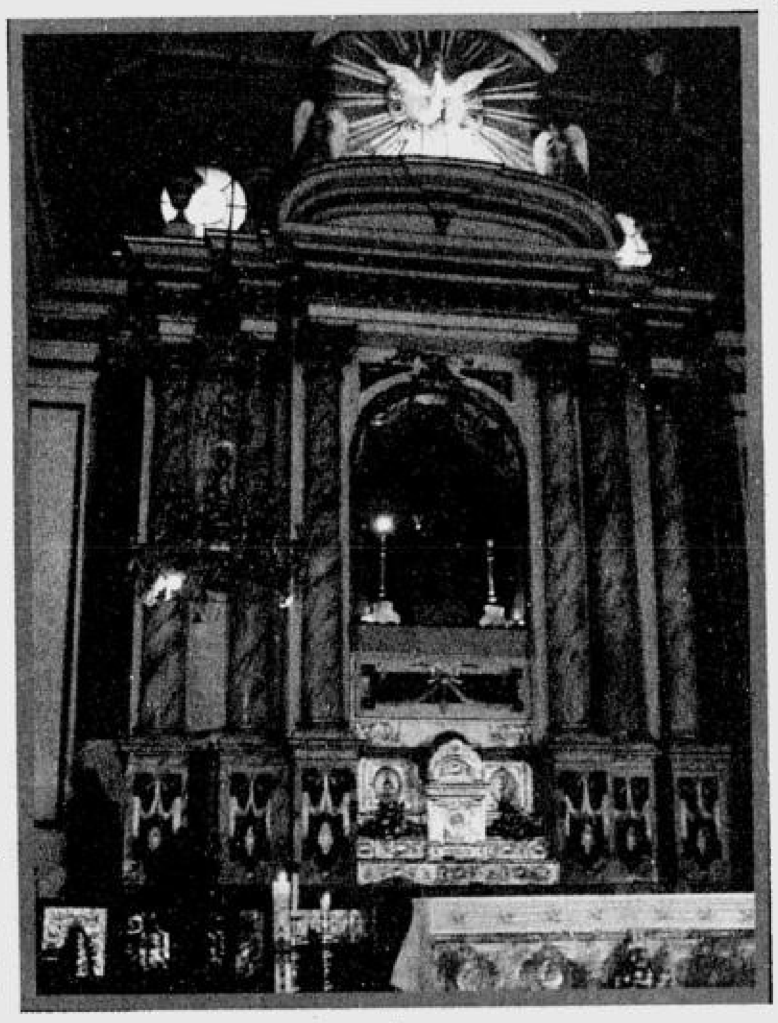
A quick stroll around the museum in the compound pointed that up. There were several portraits of fat friars versus only one of Miguel Lopez de Legazpi. It's a fact that Señor Miguel came on a boat and traveled for, like, years before kissing the soil of our WOW Islas Filipinas so his skin should've been all scabby by then. Since he was the victor, though, history depicted him as a handsome dawg. That, I guess, was 16th century Photoshop.

Hustling around some more, it was clear that Spain introduced Western technology to the Philippines via South America. "Along with tobacco, sugar and coffee, Spain also brought in lung cancer, tooth decay and insomnia," Carlos interrupted. Laughter ensued. Followed by slightly ticked off fist-pumping.

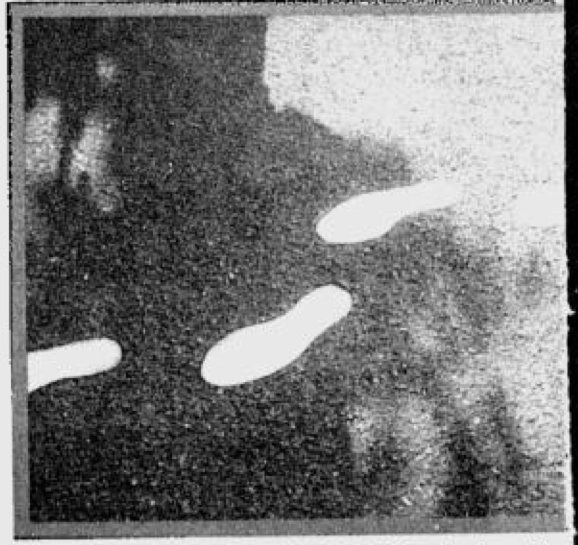
The friars also left behind some of the most awesome religious art in this nation's history. Some were too Palazzo Versace for my taste but I was struck by a statue of the Immaculate Conception patterned after a Chinese goddess. According to Carlos, "This clearly showed the true intentions of the Spanish *conquistadores*. Manila was just a pitstop to the bigger market known as China."

More than that, the figurine came to symbolize the origin of the modern-day Pinoy's identity crisis. "The Filipino elite at the time did not all descend from the Spanish since there weren't enough Spanish people to affect the gene pool," Carlos continued. "The Spanish people who were here weren't even supposed to reproduce. So the so-called Spanish *mestizos* were, in fact, Hispanized Chinese." (If you want proof, just rubberneck during any upper-crust social gathering and observe members of today's patrician senior set. They tend to sprinkle Spanish words into their conversations but do not look anything like the Zobels.) Word.

P.S.: Speaking of illusions, the ceiling at San Agustin Church was painted in the *trompe-l'oeil*



ALTAR EGO. Inside the San Agustin Church. Victoria Gotti would like it here



A WALK TO REALLY REMEMBER. Tracing Jose Riza

SIX FEET UNDER. Meet Miguel Lopez de Legazpi,

J. MICHAEL HOWARD
Original Works.

Survival of the Unfittest

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

"HERE'S to the crazy ones,
the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers,
The round pegs in the square holes,
the ones who see things differently.
They're not fond of rules, and they have no respect for the status quo.
You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them.
About the only thing you can't do is ignore them.
Because they change things.
They push the human race forward.
And while some may see them as the crazy ones, I see genius.
Because the ones who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do." - Apple computer

From the very second we take our first breath outside our mother's womb, we are already baptized into the world of the Great Expectation.

As a mere seconds-old member of the human race, we are immediately the subject of scrutiny. High hopes are thick for us to be alive, to be healthy and kicking, to possess ten fingers and toes, and to look like a damn cute baby. Soon, we are expected to walk a straight line, to stand on our own, and to utter a cool word that our parents can brag to their peers about.

Later on, we are compelled to be driven and intelligent, to get into a good school and somehow comprehend the strange vocabularies of Algebra and the mystifying equations of History, Literature and—for God's sake—*Balarila*, while simultaneously trying to pass the more difficult tests of even tougher subjects—the people around us.

We thus try to find our comfort zones among the chick cliques and the sly guys, at times molding ourselves into closed circles even if it means conforming our wonderfully misshapen mindsets due to the fear of being labeled as an outcast.

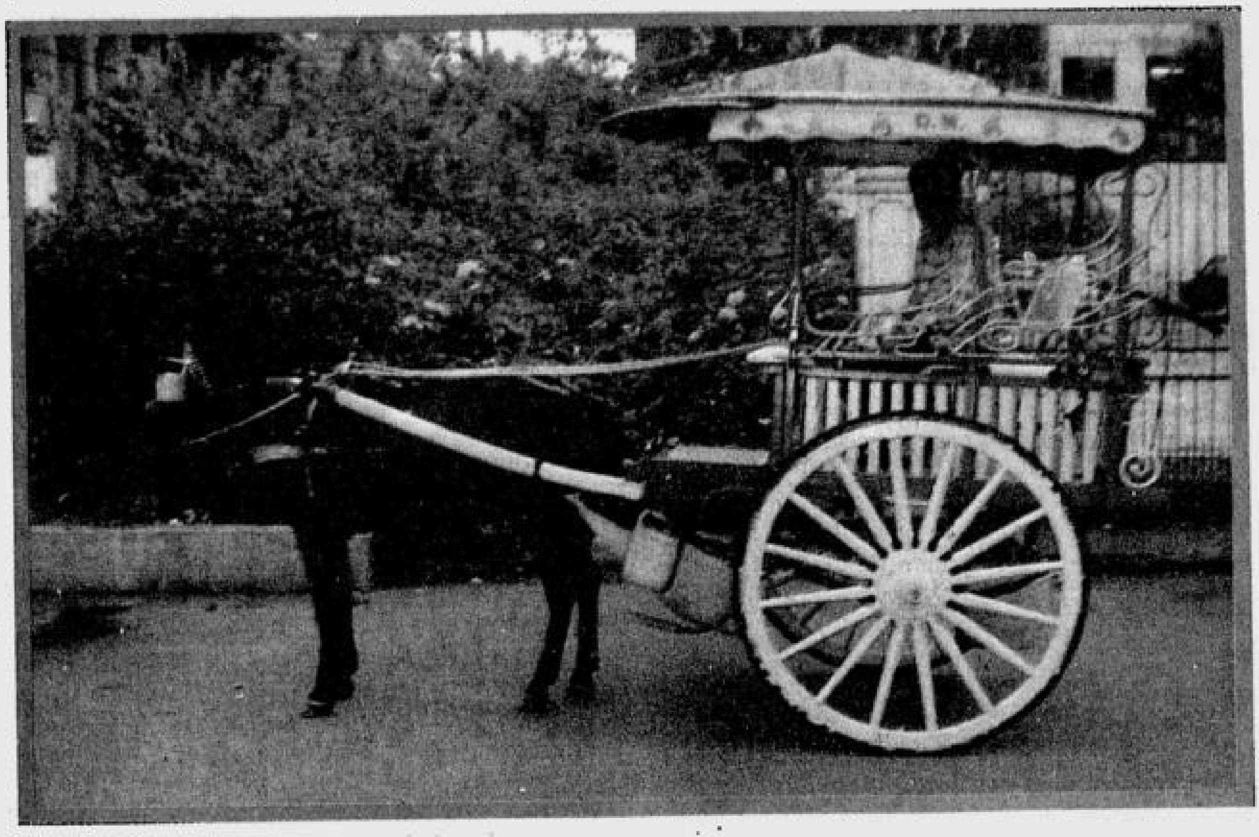
And if we manage to pull through, unscathed, through the prickly tangles of school and face the so-called "real life," we then realize that it's pretty much a similar situation, only with different subject matters. Getting a good job, finding "the one true love," to marry and have beautiful children, likewise still pressured by the alarming bells of time to get it all done at the "right age" before you're labeled either a slacker, a dead-ender or (gasp!) an old maid.

Even to be seen at the "right" places, to look good, to be attuned with the trends of the moment, just to once again, be faithful to the bewildering religion of cool. Yet recalling a line in "Almost Famous,"—since when did we put such a high premium on being like everybody else?

The *Passionistas*

Indeed, in a most Darwinian sense, life is really a survival of the fittest, as we are constantly trying to fit in into boxes, circles, invisible lines drawn around us by a society that is more often cruel than comforting.

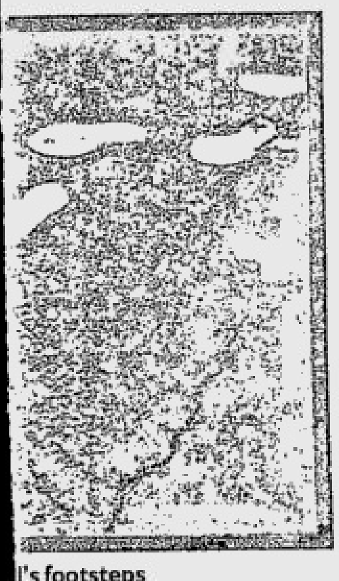
BEST COPY AVAILABLE



PIMP MY *KALESA*. Airbags not included

YOU'RE MY WONDERWALL. Fr. Blanco's garden

ur



l's footsteps

vorm food

style. The intricate (and sometimes gaudy) curlicues you see were not carved or sculpted.

Mi casa, su casa: Casa Manila

The last pitstop on our itinerary was Casa Manila. Transplanted by "foxy lady Imelda Marcos," (as our ringleader lovingly called her) the house that is now Casa Manila used to be located in the San Nicolas area across the Pasig River. The former First Lady recreated it brick by brick, supersizing it in the process to accommodate international visitors.

"No house was that big since Pinoys of the time were short in stature," Carlos clarified. There was also no plumbing which freaked the Americans out. "Taking a dump was a family affair," he said, referring to the two-seater wooden benches which were apparently early-period toilets. One's crap shot two storeys down to a trough, where it piled up for days and days until they let the pigs in to eat the shit. Then the masters ate the pig. All together now, "Ew."

Had he been around then, Thom Felicia would've likewise had a meltdown because interior design during the Spanish colonial period was completely messed up. "It's the more-is-more, *halo-halo* mentality," Carlos explained. "Pinoys are so afraid of empty space." This architectural style was a kind of eclecticism that championed showing off above everything else. "You may have someone in your family who crams every surface with pictures of places she's been, tacky souvenirs, tiny bric-a-brac or whatever just to say 'Hey, I've been out of the archipelago!' That sums it all up." Hysterical.

Late-model Manila

As our walking extravaganza drew to a close, Carlos fast-forwarded to a rather grim part of Philippine history. "It's been exactly sixty years since the city of Manila died. Back in February of 1945, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his forces blasted their way into our capital in order to liberate it from the Japanese Imperial Army. This would be known as 'The Battle of Manila' and would be the bloodiest battle ever fought on Philippine soil. By March of 1945, the once beautiful city of Manila earned the distinction of being WWII's most devastated city after Warsaw." Sob.

Of course, after astounding y'all with the information I gobbled up like a ravenous Pac-Man, I can't end this on a low note, right? Neither can Carlos. "The Philippines was, and still is, the perfect decompression chamber for Westerners [pushing towards] Hong Kong or Japan. We have a mix of Southeast Asian exoticism, a Spanish colonial past, and Western sensibilities." In short, the perfect marketing strategy!

However, not everyone agrees on the branding. "Some folks think that we would have been better off without the Spanish and Americans making a cultural mess of things. [But to] be Filipino is not to have a pure culture free of colonial influence. Rather, to be Filipino is to celebrate a multifaceted culture [and] all of its influences. We really should get rid of our 'victim' mentality. It's so one hundred years ago." Yes, Carlos. We should really stop Punking ourselves and move on.

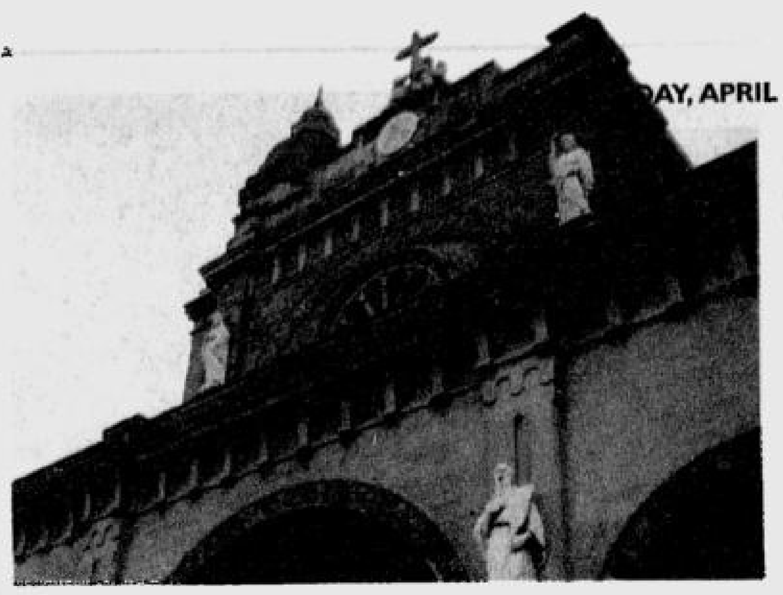
Tons of passion went into putting this myth-busting tour together and I left the Walled City with a deeper understanding of big, hot and dirty Manila. Now I know why the Spanish priests made big heaping shitpiles of love with the locals even if God told them not to. (They were horndogs.) I also found out what happened after the Americans built piers right outside Intramuros. (They blocked the breeze coming from the bay.) But most of all, now I realize that if you can't change how things are, then you should at least search for reasons why. And sometimes, you can do that by taking a walk back in time.

Wanna walk this way? If These Walls Could Talk! Deluxe Tour, includes San Agustin Museum, Fort Santiago, and horse carriage ride:

April 17 - Sunday - 10:00 a.m. - Meet at Fort Santiago

May 12 - Thursday - 3:00 p.m. - Meet at Fort Santiago

For walking tours of Binondo, Quiapo and Divisoria, contact Carlos Celdran at cell. 0926-259 7506 or e-mail celdrantours@hotmail.com. Fees and other schedules are posted on www.celdrantours.blogspot.com



NOT PART OF THE TOUR. The Manila Cathedral

Super Summer onboard the SuperFerry!

Sail away to Boracay and have a super fun time onboard the SuperFerry!

Boracay, with its distinctive beaches that feature powdery white sand, is undoubtedly one of best Summer spots in the country. And what better way to start your journey to Boracay than onboard the leading shipping company, SuperFerry!

With SuperFerry Sail Away packages, you can take pleasure in a hassle-free, pre-arranged Summer getaway while enjoying a vacation that combines the pleasure of a SuperFerry journey and the excitement of the islands!

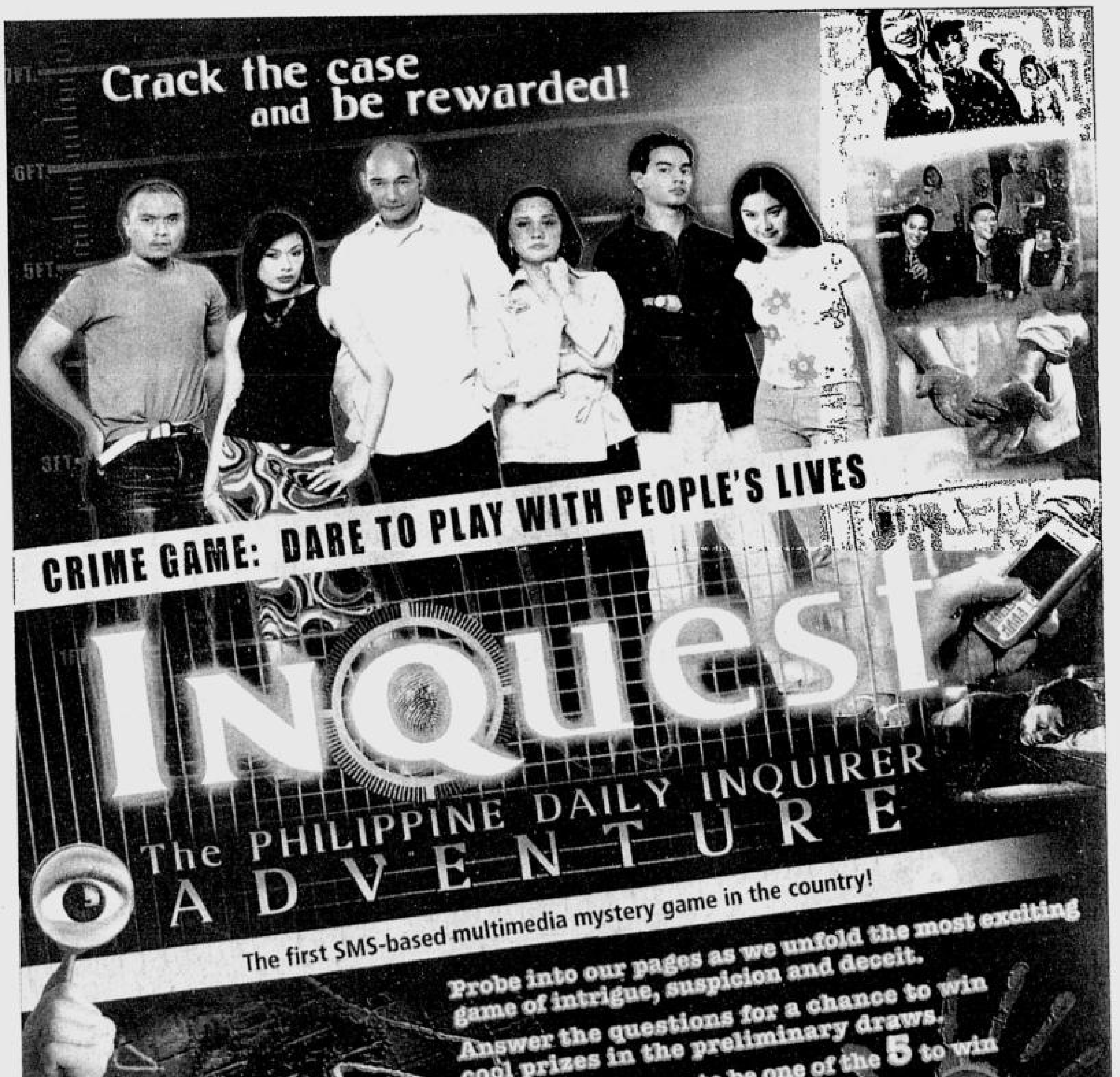
Start your fantasy vacation onboard the SuperFerry, where you can enjoy and take advantage of amenities and facilities. With warm, friendly crew, SuperFerry promises the vacation you've always dreamed of!

So, sail away to Boracay onboard the SuperFerry and spend luxurious three days and two nights in picturesque beaches, basking under the sun, shopping, dining, scuba diving or just plain waiting for the sunset to signal the wild Summer nights!

Decide on the best Boracay Sail Away package suitable for you and your friends and choose from hotels, such as Seawind Beach Resort, Le Soleil de Boracay, Jony's Beach Resort, Patio Pacific Resort, Willy's Beach Resort or Queen's Resort.

Complete with hotel accommodation, meals, and roundtrip land transfers for a minimum of P4,900, a Summer getaway in Boracay is truly a happy trip only onboard the SuperFerry! Dahil sa SuperFerry, byahe pa lang ang saya na!

For customized Sail Away packages and other details, visit www.SuperFerry.com.ph or call Tours and Group Sales (TGS) at 528-7100.



Crack the case and be rewarded!
CRIME GAME: DARE TO PLAY WITH PEOPLE'S LIVES
INQuest
The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER ADVENTURE
The first SMS-based multimedia mystery game in the country!
Probe into our pages as we unfold the most exciting game of intrigue, suspicion and deceit.
Answer the questions for a chance to win cool prizes in the preliminary draws.
PLUS, get a chance to be one of the 5 to win up to ₱100,000 cash in guessing who the killer is!
5
For more details, see promo flyers or log on to www.inquestor.com

GAME MECHANICS

The Registration:

1. To join Philippine Daily Inquirer's INQuest Adventure, participants must register first by texting in this format: INQ Reg <full name>*<complete address>*<age>*<gender> Ex: INQ Reg Juan dela Cruz*1234 Ortigas Ave Pasig*34*M
2. Send to 2320 for Globe/Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers or 309 for Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text subscribers. Free registration.
3. Upon registration, your mobile phone number is automatically locked to your name.

The Game:

1. Buy a copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer to follow the INQuest Adventure Mystery and guess the answer to the questions found at the end of the chapter installments.
2. To help you answer the questions, clues can be found in various sections in Philippine Daily Inquirer, INQuest website or INQTV (every Thursdays, 8 to 9pm at ABC5). To answer, text in this format: INQ Q<question #> <answer> and so on Ex: INQ Q1 A
3. Participant is allowed a maximum of three (3) answers per question. Each text answer entitles the participant one (1) raffle entry to qualify for the preliminary draws.
4. For each successful text sent, participants will receive a confirmation message. The cost for each successful message sent is P2.50 for Globe/Touch Mobile/Smart/Addict and Talk 'N Text subscribers and P2.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers.
5. There will be a total of eight (8) preliminary draws (1 winner each) and one (1) final draw (5 winners). There will only be one (1) winner per question (preliminary draw) but an individual may win again in the succeeding preliminary draws. Final draw winner can only win once.

Clue	Clue Date	Cut-Off	Draw	Bonus Prizes for Correct Answers
Q1	March 9	March 12	March 14	Apple iPod 20GB
Q2	March 16	March 19	March 28	Canon PowerShot A75
Q3	March 20	March 30	April 4	Apple iPod 20GB
Q4	March 31	April 2	April 4	Canon PowerShot A75
Q5	April 5	April 6	April 11	Apple iPod 20GB
Q6	April 10	April 16	April 18	Canon PowerShot A75
Q7	April 17	April 23	April 25	Apple iPod 20GB
Q8	April 24	April 30	May 2	Canon PowerShot A75
Q9	May 1	May 7	May 9	5 x P80,000.00 Cash

6. The winner drawn from the preliminary draw (Q1-Q8) automatically gets to win a Guyito doll. An additional prize (Apple iPod or Canon Digicam) is given if he/she sent a correct answer.
7. The five (5) entries drawn for the final draw (Q9) will automatically receive a cash prize of P20,000.00 each. An additional P80,000.00 cash prize will be given to those with correct answer.
8. Winners will be notified thru registered mail and names will also be published two (2) days after the draw.
9. Metro Manila preliminary and final draw winners must claim their prizes at the PDI office located at: Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City.
10. Provincial preliminary draw winners have the option of either claiming their prize in person at the PDI office or have the prize sent to them via courier service. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.
11. The following must be presented for verification:
    a. Valid ID with picture (e.g., driver's license, passport, employee ID)
    b. In case valid IDs do not indicate birthdate/age, present a birth certificate
    c. Copy of PDI's notification/confirmation letter
    d. PDI mast head (including date) taken from issue where question was published
12. Prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of confirmation letter. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.
13. All prizes are tax-free, not transferable and not convertible to cash.
14. The winners declared by PDI, DTI and its representatives are final.
15. All employees of PDI Group of Companies, sponsors of INQuest, their advertising agencies/third party suppliers and their relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
16. Promo period is from March 2 to May 7, 2005.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1123, Series of 2005

rein lies the difference be-
se who opt for comfort and
, and those who choose con-
e *passionistas* who stand out-
perceived closed circles to
r own space, to live out their
ecause they have come to un-
hat believing in themselves
g their dreams into realities
e dictates of society is the
at can move the world. To
Dale Carnegie, it's these
e who choose to play their
with their own little instru-
e orchestra of life who create
eautiful music.

vs been attracted to these revo-
specially in our 2-degree of sep-
ety of Manila where it's just so
r to opt for convention rather
n.

ing to immerse myself in con-
mong musicians, independent
painters, photographers, de-
Os and writers, perhaps be-
pite of a lack of a steady paycheck), they believe in their art. Be they labeled as "eccentrics" or "rebels," I pick up ideas that form a pastiche of an ideal mindset of what our country's youth can emulate.

They have unconsciously grown out of image concerns, have become averse to apathy, and dignified themselves through their progressive endeavors. In many of these conversations among these avant guardians, I've stumbled upon a common denominator—that in pioneering something innovative in spite of the slings and arrows hurled at them by closed minds, there is always a high risk of failure. Yet that first brave step in pursuing one's own beliefs and talents somehow eventually leads to a greater wisdom and self-understanding that one would never have attained had fear been a factor.

For it is always infinitely better to be a first-rate version of yourself than a second-grade version of somebody else. Takes a while to break free from the box, but when it finally happens, the first breath out of it is damn exhilarating.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Deals in Heat
Stop. Look. Listen.

NEW! NOKIA

1.3 megapixel camera

Movie Director

XHTML Browser

65,000 Color Screen

Push to Talk

Expandable Memory

Blue Tooth

Nokia 3230
FREE
@PLAN 2500

3D Stereo surround sound

Sharp color screen

Camera flash

Rhythm lights

Motorola E398
Only P1,000
@PLAN 1200

Feel the sights and sounds of the latest Addict Mobile phones that are totally outta this world!

Treo 650
Only P4,500
@PLAN 3500
(with FREE Wireless JABRA Bluetooth Headset)

O2 Mini
Only P2,000
@PLAN 3500
(with FREE Wireless JABRA Bluetooth Headset)

Nokia 6630
FREE
@PLAN 3500

Motorola [illegible]
Only P[illegible]
@PLAN 2500

Grab your VIP card now, and enjoy discounts and access to exclusive events!

Super 4

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer sup name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

pop culture • entertainment • recreation

DIGITAL ARTWORK BY MARTIN VALDES

> But one look at the headline, screaming like bloody murder in big, bold, red typeface, set me on a journey that continues to this day
>
> *"DALAGA, BINOGA SA KEPS!"*

The Gravity of Words

Dear Man About Town,

I'm thinking of becoming a writer and had a few questions. What is it about writing that is important to you? What should I keep in mind? I think you're a good writer, but some of my friends say you're a fluffy. Do you think you're a good writer?

Man about town

Chuck Dy

I BECAME a writer the day I understood words without knowing what they meant.

It was the usual afternoon drive home from school, stuck in the sweaty embrace of Metro Manila traffic, when our car air conditioner decided unceremoniously to retire from this world. Anyone who has lived in this city knows that opening a window does not help, as the heat bouncing off the metal of other vehicles, or rising from the asphalt in wisps of searing vapor, combined with the pollution of a million bad-ideas-on-wheels, negates any illusion of cross-ventilation that one may have had prior to rolling down the window for a whiff of hell. As my brains began to leak out of my ears, I searched for anything I could use as a fan, and discovered my driver's copy of Abante folded and wedged between his seat and the handbrake. For those of you who may not know, Abante is a tabloid of magnificent dimension and scope, more a social phenomenon than an actual journalistic device. Within its pages are documented fictions disguised as fact, sex packaged as product, gossip detailed as necessary knowledge, in short, Filipino life as magnified and distorted by our own fantasies and perceptions. I was always a big fan. Today, it was going to be my fan. But one look at the headline, screaming like bloody murder in big, bold, red typeface, set me on a journey that continues to this day.

"DALAGA, BINOGA SA KEPS!"

There are four words in the headline, two of which instantly registered: *dalaga*, meaning young woman, and *sa*, a designation of time or place. And yet, despite my ignorance of the other two words (obviously a verb and a noun), an extremely graphic image of what this headline was attempting to communicate crystallized in my head. I still have no conclusive definition for what *binoga* might be, or where a *keps* is, but I am almost certain I wouldn't want it happening to anyone I know.

Power of words

Such is the power of words, even the ones we don't fully comprehend, that they are able to communicate despite their static nature, that they are able to resonate through time despite their apparent evanescence. They possess a gravity that will not be denied, pulling meaning and memory towards a center below the surface of understanding, towards a core in each of us so primeval that it antedates the functions of our senses, and instead appeals to emotions without proper names or coherent visuals.

The argument is that a picture is worth a thousand words. This is an understatement because a good picture is worth more than a thousand words. A description of Guernica by Pablo Picasso would never be satisfied by the current limitations of the existing volume of human vocabulary. The same argument exists for sound, or taste, or smell, or touch. All of these kingdoms can never be bordered by words, for even the most gifted writer is but a wandering minstrel traveling through those realms, attempting to express through the human invention of language what is in essence an experience in the sublime.

But on the other hand, what picture could ever faithfully portray a single line, much less the opening rant ("I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness"), of Allen Ginsberg's Howl? Or the solemn vortex of that single most used word in the Bible, Amen? What taste or smell could express the bitter tang of betrayal as painfully as "Frailty, thy name is woman"? And what music (although I concede music does come quite close) could thunder with the same mixture of the sacred and the profane, making one laugh and cringe, with just eight syllables: *Dalaga, binoga sa keps?*

Futile exercise

The point is that it would be a futile exercise to compare these forms of expression, as they all possess their respective, independent characteristics. But the aspect that separates the written or spoken word, is that it's man's most obvious attempt to segregate himself from the rules of the natural world. Everything else is governed by the physics of the world we live in, which makes these arts, whether visual, aural, tactile, olfactory or savory, more universal. Of course, our own localized context will influence just how much we can appreciate these things—the polka, while recognized as a form of music, will not be on my iPod anytime soon—but at least they still retain the basic laws of natural reflection, which make them more accessible. There is no such thing as a painting colored by hues never before seen. There is no such thing as music composed of unknown sounds. No chef is going to puke in his goulash and call it a designer dish. We have lived long enough to accept that "new art" is but a combination of known raw materials put together in a different way.

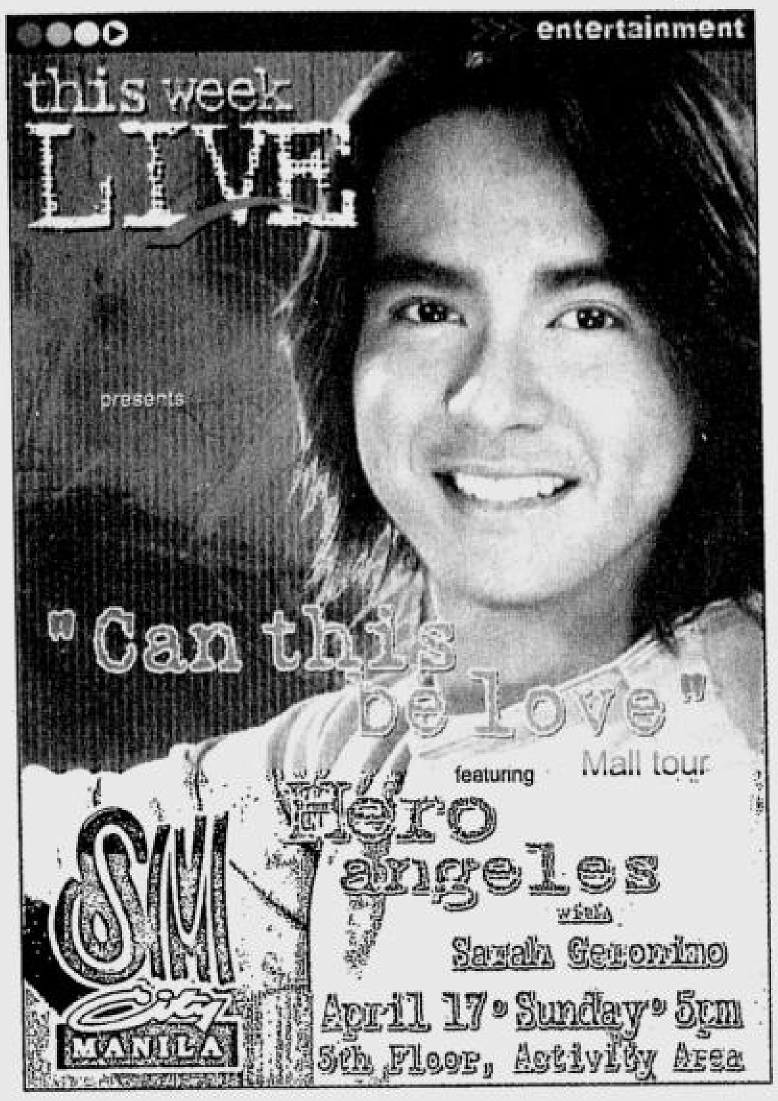
Localized phenomena

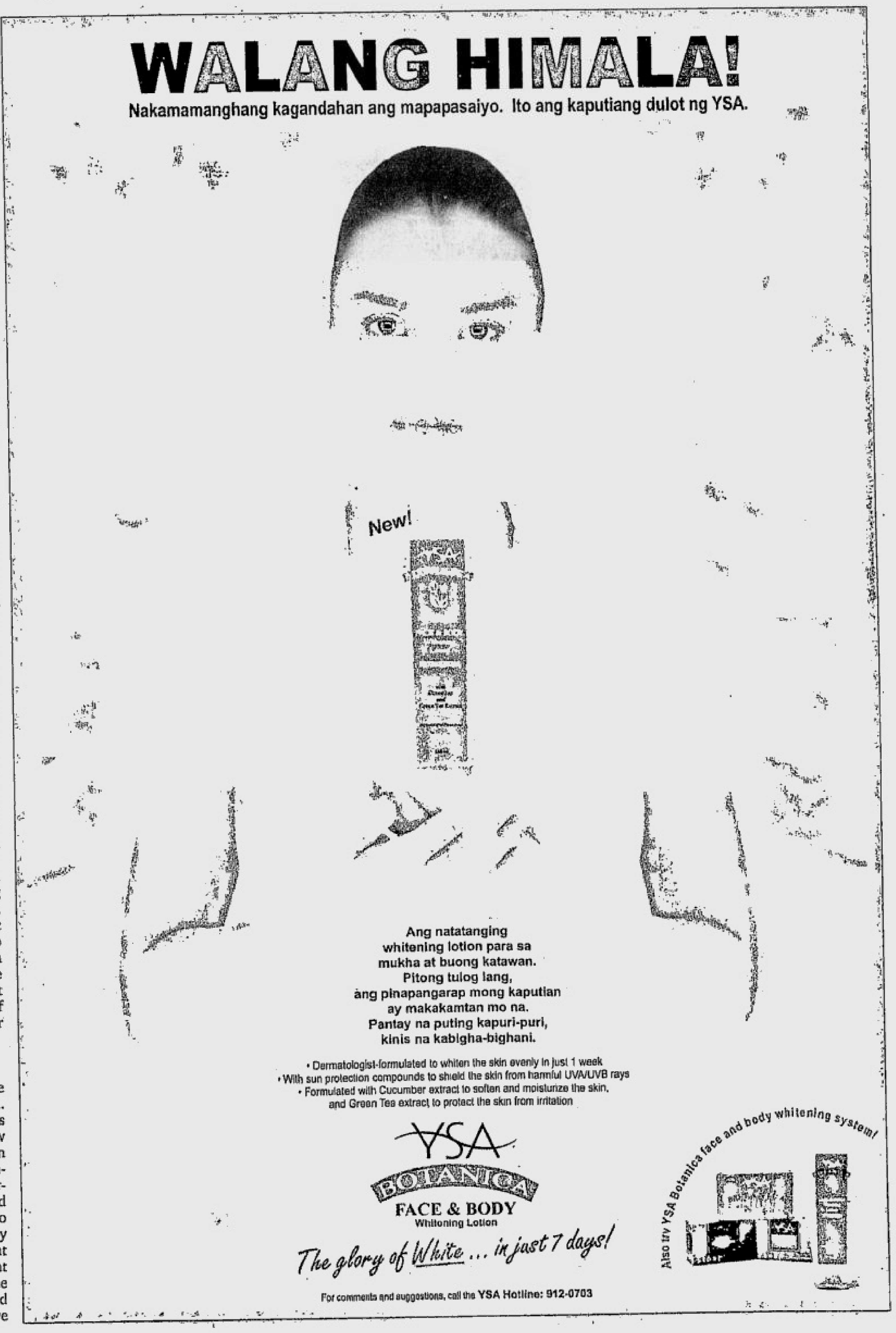
Words on the other hand are extremely localized phenomena. The average human being goes through life knowing only a few thousand words, using a fraction of that to survive, and a few hundred of that to get laid. The average celebrity doesn't even need that much. And yet, if we were to collate every word from every language ever spoken throughout history, from the first feeble grunt of a caveman hurling a lime stone to the last feeble curse of an old man ejecting a kidney stone, we would have compiled a dictionary heavier than God's regrets. There are more words in the night sky of human lexicon that there are actual stars to describe them by.

Because they are the most human of all inventions, they are infused with flaws reflexive of our nature, as well as blessed with nuances no other form of expression can achieve.

Words are only as honest as their authors. It is strange that the saying, "a man of his word" has come to reflect a person of integrity when the opposite has just as often been the case. We know too many people who have tainted the

THE GRAVITY/ G3




WALANG HIMALA!
Nakamamanghang kagandahan ang mapapasaiyo. Ito ang kaputiang dulot ng YSA.

New!

Ang natatanging
whitening lotion para sa
mukha at buong katawan.
Pitong tulog lang,
ang pinapangarap mong kaputian
ay makakamtan mo na.
Pantay na puting kapuri-puri,
kinis na kabigha-bighani.

- Dermatologist-formulated to whiten the skin evenly in just 1 week
- With sun protection compounds to shield the skin from harmful UVA/UVB rays
- Formulated with Cucumber extract to soften and moisturize the skin, and Green Tea extract to protect the skin from irritation

YSA BOTANICA FACE & BODY Whitening Lotion

The glory of White ... in just 7 days!

Also try YSA Botanica face and body whitening system!

For comments and suggestions, call the YSA Hotline: 912-0703

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Super

A TYPICAL reaction that I get when I show my newest designs

ANOTHER typical reaction that I get when I show my newest designs

A SCEPTIC look by fashion and music diva Kate Torralba

BLUE is the latest craze

BIANCA Holganza from "I Love You Store" blows my bubble

NOT EVERYBODY agrees with my style

Beauty knows no pain

caught by

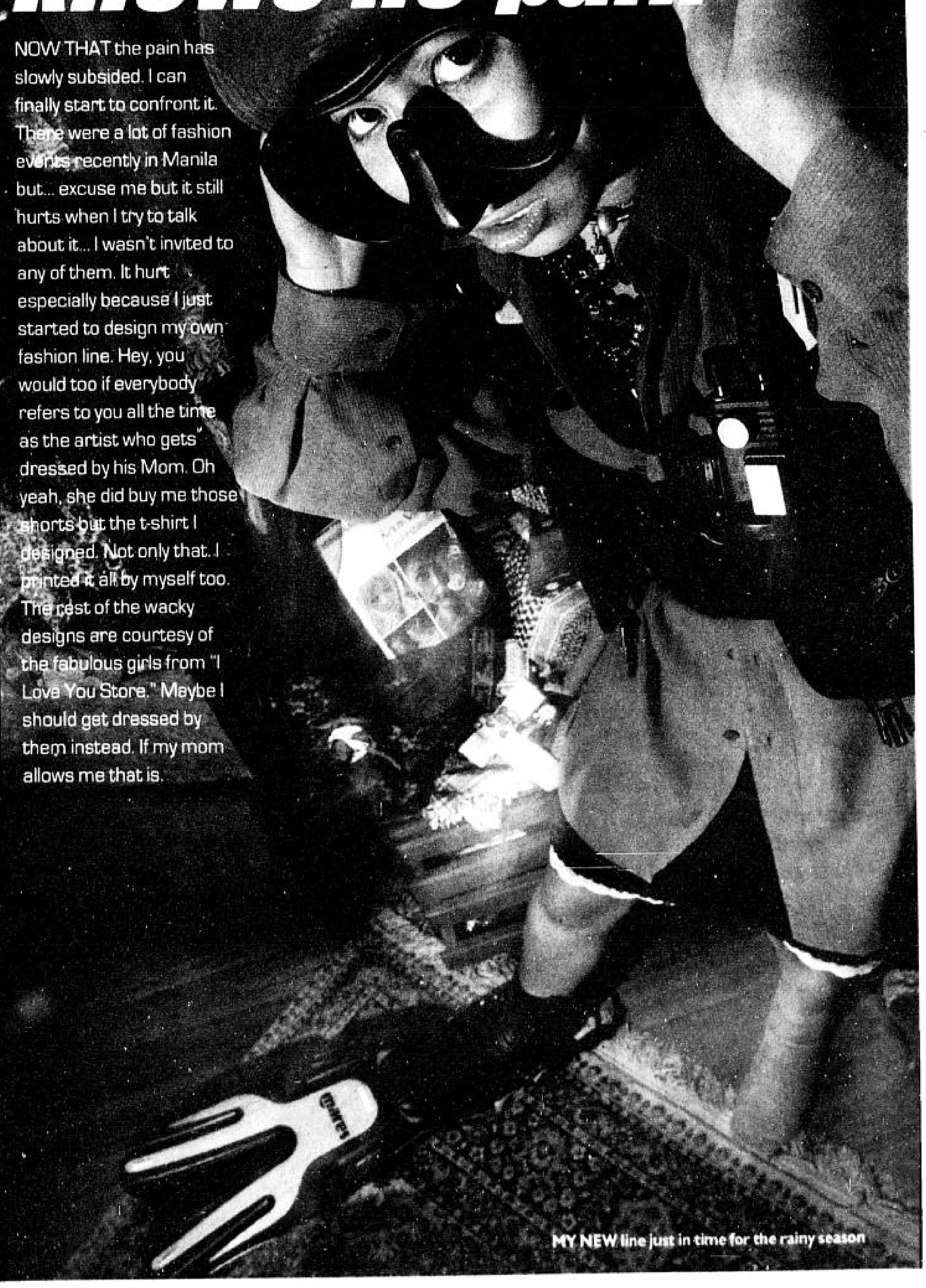
andy YU MACHE

www.dont-touch-my.com

FASHION Diva Corinne Ching and photography whiz RJ Fernandez diplomatically refrain from commenting

"I LOVE You Store's" Mimi Sanson shows me how to do it right

NOW THAT the pain has slowly subsided. I can finally start to confront it. There were a lot of fashion events recently in Manila but... excuse me but it still hurts when I try to talk about it... I wasn't invited to any of them. It hurt especially because I just started to design my own fashion line. Hey, you would too if everybody refers to you all the time as the artist who gets dressed by his Mom. Oh yeah, she did buy me those shorts but the t-shirt I designed. Not only that. I printed it all by myself too. The rest of the wacky designs are courtesy of the fabulous girls from "I Love You Store." Maybe I should get dressed by them instead. If my mom allows me that is.



MY NEW line just in time for the rainy season

The Gravity of Words

From page G1

authenticity of beautiful words by their own weakness; forever rendering them crippled poems, useless to everybody else. Are not all lovers handicapped by the fact at some point in the past, a former lover once vowed the same exact sweet words, before they so rudely dated your best friend? How do we vote for politicians whose verbal platforms (if they even present any), sound just as noble and visionary as the last person who pilfered our trust? Yes, even the devil can quote from scripture, and sometimes, he even publishes his own.

Words are ambiguous and protean. It is the at once its most appealing and beguiling feature, this languid facet of uncertainty. They can be crafted to fit almost any meaning, intended or otherwise. Think of the first text received after an initial date that goes something along the lines of: "Thx! Had fun." Depending on your level of paranoia or confidence, this could be the start of a fantastic relationship or an impending letdown. So we compound it by sending our own unclear message such as, "Cool. Me, too." Even worse, we then text her best friend in an attempt to unravel this growing knot when she texts back with a stupid smiley face. Thus begins the strange parlor game modern relationships spend most of their time engaged in called Decipher the Hidden Meaning of Three-Word Text Messages. I constantly lose at these things.

Words affect lives. What is a word but the summary of a moment? But if on this moment hinges the history of an individual or a people, then the word is made flesh. Say No to a man proposing marriage and you shall see the effect of a single syllable as it ravages the landscape of his face with the authority of time and space. Vote Yes to a President who later on effects into legislature the end of the world and feel the weight of your contribution towards Armageddon. Say "I love you" to someone when you don't mean it. I dare you. It's worse than my last two examples.

Words belong to everybody. While it would have been special to actually be present when the great speeches were orated, the power of Martin Luther King's "I had a Dream" has not lost any of its majesty when rendered through the lips of someone just as passionate about its message. The reason Christopher Marlowe is still rehashed today is not because of the great costumes, but because of the longevity and reticence of prose done right. While proprietary and correct designation of authorship is necessary in the commercial realm, the beauty of words is that they lose no potency when borrowed for appropriate measure. I have borrowed enough Shakespeare to seduce women; they have borrowed enough Plath to rebuff my advances. While other artworks venerate their originals in guarded institutions, words celebrate their originality by allowing them to spread and replicate, hanging copies in the personal museums of every individual who cares to happen upon them.

Words are in constant evolution. Just like every other form of art, words are alive, suffering from that inconvenient tendency called growth. While the growth of vocabulary appears necessary in light of our expanding experiences, it is not a good thing. We have, like, thousands of existing words in English and yet, we use but a few of these, and still we continue to add to our lexicon. The resulting tangle is contradictory to the main function of language, which is communication. Instead of making things clearer and easier to understand, we end up bogging down the process. We should strive to use effective words, efficient words, and not necessarily new ones.

The responsibility of a writer is to be aware of these properties. A good writer, for me, is trying to say something relevant. Of course, relevance tends to be a purely subjective rationale, so the definition of a good writer differs from reader to reader. Also, a sense of craftsmanship is important, but guided by a social conscience. There are supremely talented people out there who can put together the most astounding phrases with such clarity and symmetry, but unless these wordsmiths accept accountability for the passions they evoke, then they shouldn't be writing.

Do I think I'm a good writer? Hardly. I think I have a loooong way to go before I can reread any of my prior works and not want to change a few paragraphs. But I'm trying. Maybe one day, someone will quote from my works with the same reverence I attribute to the canons of Dylan Thomas, Nick Joaquin or Conrado de Quiros. Until then, I'm hoping I come up with anything near as fascinating as "*Dalaga, Binoga sa Keps.*"

(email bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com)

Words are ambiguous and protean

Fast cash for any need or any occasion, anytime, anywhere.

CASH2GO
The BEAT Installment Plan
Call 8-700-700 for more details.
You're in good hands with METROBANK

PARK SPRING
SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA

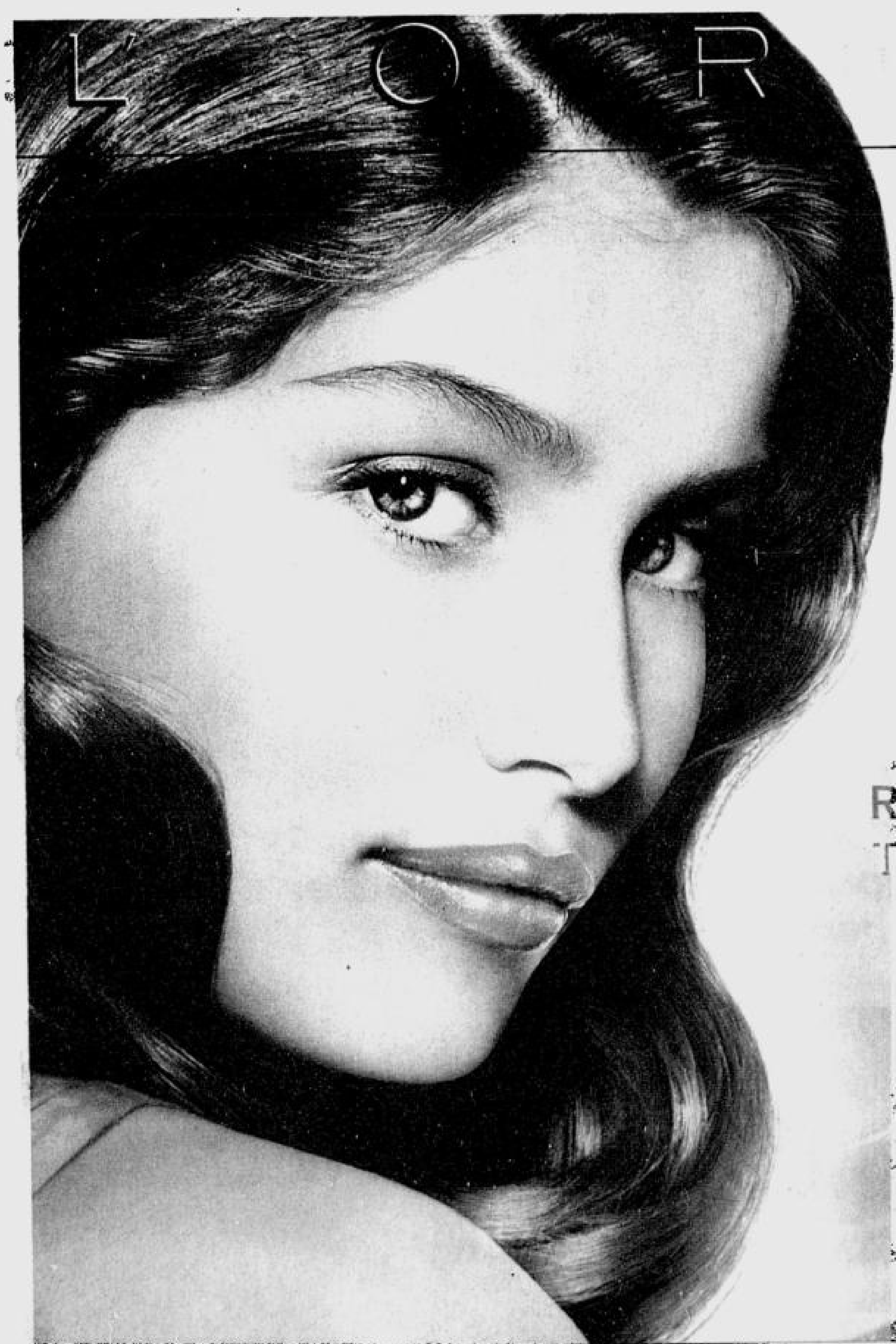
Now accessible via San Pedro Exit and Daang Hari!

NO DOWNPAYMENT. 3 years, 0 % interest
House & lot package for as low as **P988,000**
PAG-IBIG & BANK FINANCING AVAILABLE
LTS- R4-95-96-0236

A quality project of
CORTE BELLA
The Metro Homes Division of
FILINVEST LAND, INC.
www.filinvestland.com

GRAND OPEN HOUSE ON APRIL 24
For inquiries, call:
772-2745 · 850-1582

L'ORÉAL
PARIS



NEW
Color Riche
AQUA SHINE
TRIPLE SPA CARE LIPCOLOR WITH OMEGA 3

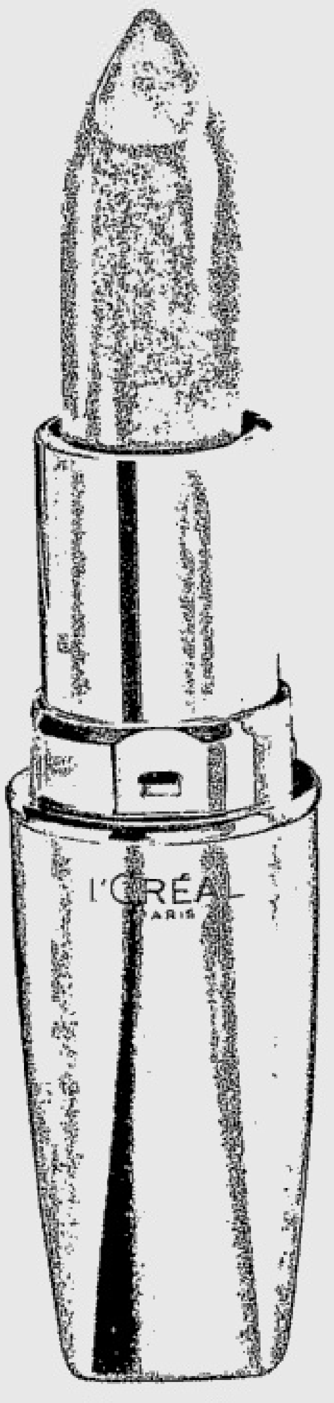
REVOLUTION!
THE 1ST
TRIPLE SPA CARE LIPCOLOR

CARE 1: CONTINUOUS MOISTURE RECHARGE
[illegible]

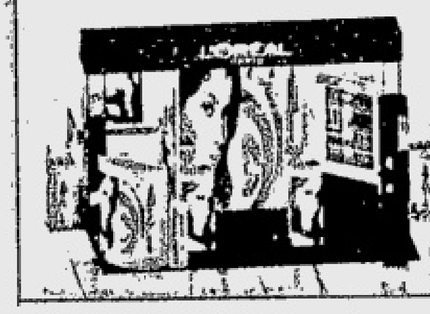
CARE 2: ANTI-DRYNESS PROTECTION
[illegible] AGAINST EXTERNAL AGGRESSIONS.

CARE 3: HEALING COLORS
[illegible]

BECAUSE YOU'RE WORTH IT.

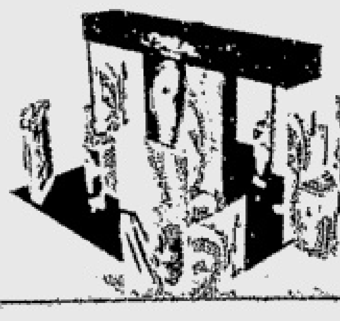


L'ORÉAL
PARIS

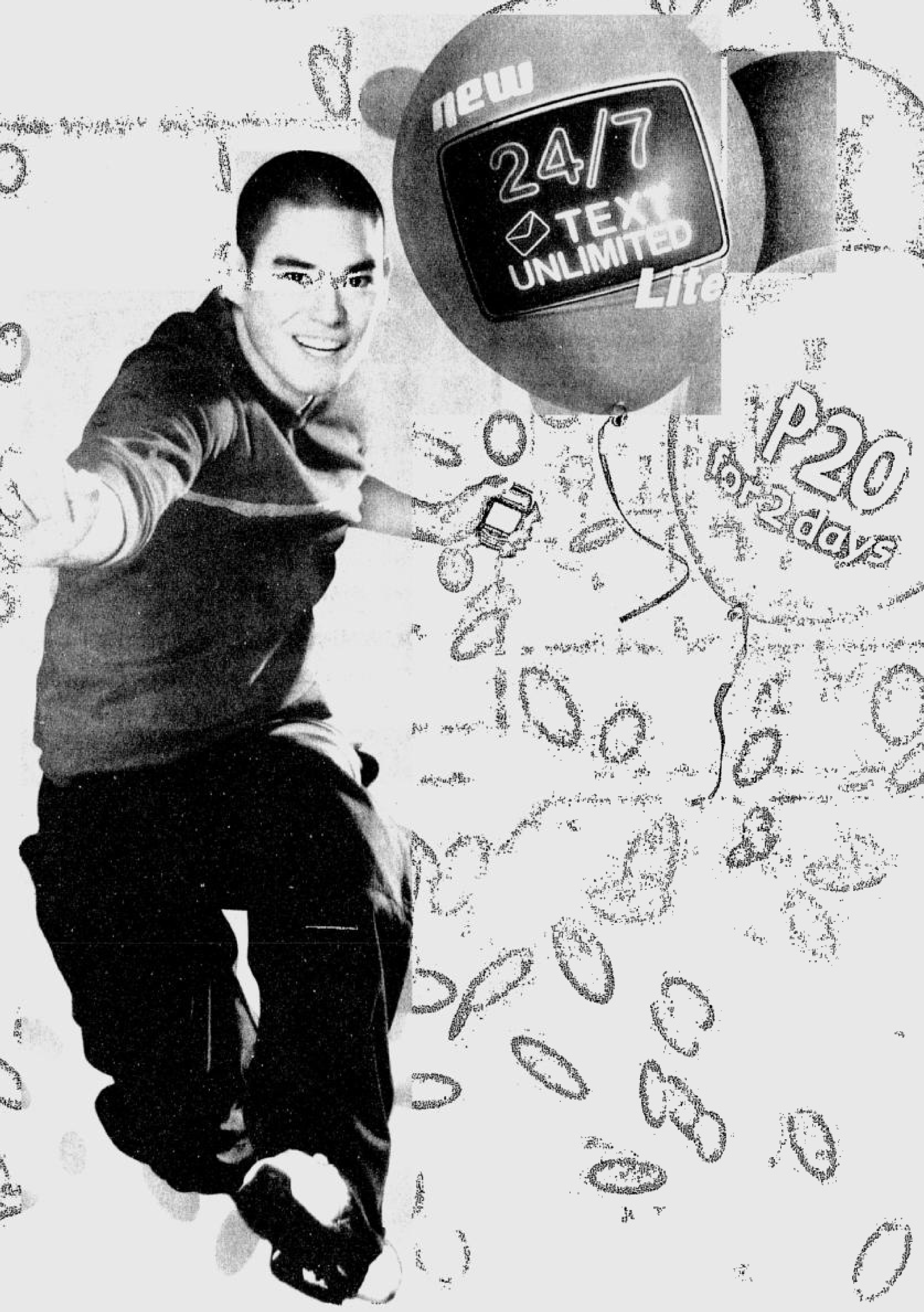


Get Pampered in the L'Oreal Paris Beauty Hub!
- expert makeovers
- fabulous giveaways

Robinson's Place Ermita
April [illegible] 17, 200[illegible]



The best 24/7 Text Unlimited service from Sun! Now even lighter at only P20



Load up on 24/7 TEXT UNLIMITED LITE to enjoy round-the-clock texting that's lighter on your budget.

For only P10/day, you can text all you want with your other Sun pals.

For a limited period only.

PROMO MECHANICS:

- From April 15 to May 31, 2005, all active Sun Cellular prepaid subscribers can avail of 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite by loading via text.
- Enjoy unlimited local Sun-to-Sun texting for 2 days for only P20. Simply text **TU<space>2** and send to **247**. Texting to 247 is free of charge.
- To load up via text, you will need a minimum of P20 (exclusive of Convert-a-Load) in your account to purchase 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite.
- After texting the keywords to 247, you will receive a text message containing the number series ***220#** followed by a 14-digit number string. Once you receive this, just load up by doing the following:
  - Key in ***220#** followed by the 14-digit number string then the # sign. Ensure that there are no spaces between characters then press SEND.

    OR
  - Dial **220**, press **1** then enter the 14-digit number string.

  Note: For security purposes, it is best to load up immediately after you receive the 14-digit number string.
- Upon loading the number string, you will immediately receive a text message reflecting your updated regular load balance. This means that 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite has been activated and you can start enjoying the service until it expires. Real-time loading, no need to wait!
- Should your regular balance reach zero after loading up 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite via text, you can only send local Sun-to-Sun texts. For transactions to subscribers on other networks, simply load up a regular Sun Cellular Prepaid call card.
- 24/7 loads have separate and distinct validity periods from regular Sun Cellular Prepaid load. Reloading a new 24/7 card before the expiry date of your old 24/7 card will forfeit the validity of your old card.

24/7 UNLIMITED CHOICES

	price	validity
24/7 TEXT UNLIMITED	P20	2 days
	P 50	7 days
	P 150	30 days
	P 100	7 days
	P 350	30 days

Applicable to local Sun-to-Sun calls & texts.

Better Network. Better Value.

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1879, Series of 2005.

SUN CELLULAR PREPAID

B M W
M NU 4250

The new BMW 3 Series: Embracing the *extremes*

By Andre Palma

The philippine debut of the world's leading luxury sports sedan is at hand - impressively ahead of most markets worldwide.

Founded on the category breaching BMW 2002 introduced in 1966, the dynamic driving characteristics of the iconic BMW 3 Series represent a rich heritage that spans 40 years. Through the decades, BMW has left an indelible mark on the way we perceive performance, engineering excellence and luxury - even in products outside the automotive industry.

Now, with the introduction of the new BMW 3 Series, discerning Filipino motorists are about to benefit exponentially from six product generations of progression and development.

The dominance of the BMW 3 Series seemed to culminate in its previous model, the well-appreciated E46. Whereas technology available to much earlier models was channeled to performance and the spirit of driving, the cutting edge of design and manufacturing allowed the E46 to cross over into the realm of true utilitarian luxury.

Highly capable as a driving tool, the previous 3 Series also reminded consumers and the automotive industry alike that lavish opulence could be had in one and the same vehicle. Valid to every segment in the premium class because of its encompassing proficiency, it is no wonder that the E46 garnered several industry and consumer awards throughout its model life. This confirmed its rightful claim as the world's best sporting sedan.

But as with all things rooted in technology and engineering, advancement and innovation eventually bring us better and brighter products. As such, BMW takes a bold leap into the automotive markets of the world with the introduction of the newest interpretation of pleasurable sporting luxury: the new BMW 3 Series (E90 chassis designation).

With the seemingly impossible task of unseating what was unanimously the best-accepted model of the 3 Series, it is hard to believe that the E90 does just that. The 3's newest evolution sets a higher benchmark that industry practitioners and consumers alike must recognize. Once driven, it is obvious that the level of technology applied to the vehicle by BMW results in a highly cultivated yet potent automobile.

With an engineering soul that is truly performance oriented, the sophisticated and innovative technology of the new 3 series guides it to newer heights of safety, comfort and driving pleasure. Combined with sublime visual design and styling, the total package of the new BMW 3 series is more perfect than ever before - if such a thing is possible.

Deconstructing the factors that make the new 3 Series a transcendent automobile, one that embraces the extremes, is no simple task. I can only describe the seamless integration of all the vehicle's fundamentals as "systems fusion". Remarkably, the new BMW 3 Series is able to effortlessly combine seemingly contradictory characteristics: offering powerful yet fuel efficient engines, a spacious yet light body - all integrated in a sporty yet elegant design. Clearly, total concept harmony is at hand.

The essence of the new BMW 3 Series can be taken in the context of the world that all physical objects move in. These are the basic elements everything is ultimately made of: the primordial pillars of Fire, Wind, Earth and Water.

Fire - What beats at the heart of the new BMW 3 Series

The beating heart of the 3 Series is the all-new line of 4 and 6-cylinder engines. These exciting new power plants benefit from intrepid advances in manufacturing and materials technology. Incorporating the first mass produced magnesium alloy parts in engine design and execution, the new engines are the lightest in their class and at the same time provide improved performance over the previous generation inline four and straight six engines. The most noteworthy step into the future is the all-magnesium crank, touted to be stiffer, stronger and lighter than its predecessor.

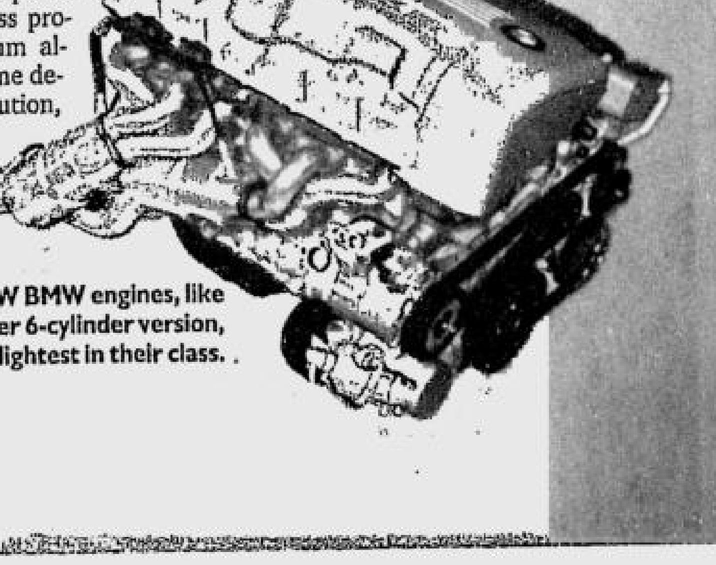
The current flagship of the line is the 3.0 liter Valvetronic equipped straight six cylinder engine with 258bhp and 300Nm of torque. This engine is also the first 6-cylinder to use BMW Valvetronic. With infinitely variable valve lift in place of the traditional throttle butterfly, this system improves both throttle response and fuel economy, resulting in a 13-percent performance increase from the previous model while increasing overall fuel efficiency by 12 percent.

An equally capable and efficient 2.0 liter, Bivanos and Valvetronic equipped inline four with 150bhp and 200Nm of torque is also available. Each engine has its own matched gear ratio and final drive, allowing all engine power to be optimized and suitably delivered in various driving situations.

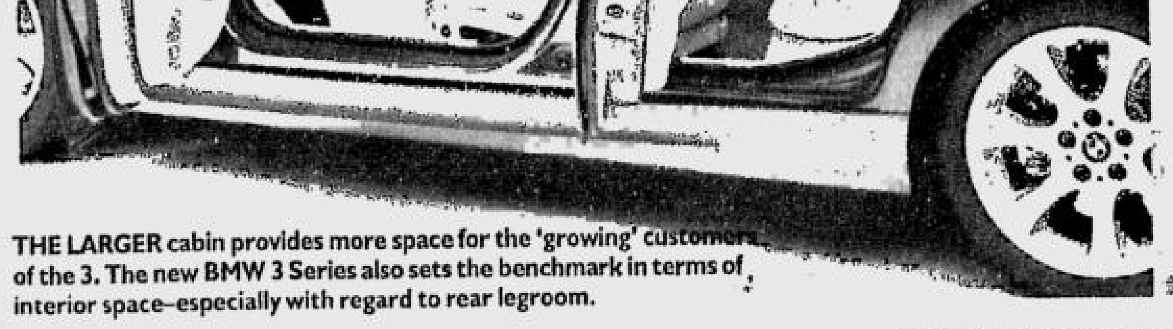
Wind - Rare air

The dramatic curvaceous body of the new 3 Series is both competent in form and function. The design reminds us of its lineage because of distinct styling cues, such as the classic kidney grille and the "Hoffmeister knick", a design detail in the car's C-pillar where the rear window's lines curves uniquely back toward the front, instead of the

BMW/ H2



THE NEW BMW engines, like this 3-liter 6-cylinder version, are the lightest in their class.



THE LARGER cabin provides more space for the 'growing' customers of the 3. The new BMW 3 Series also sets the benchmark in terms of interior space–especially with regard to rear legroom.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The new BMW 3 Series: Embra

From page H1

usual downward sloping shape found in many automobiles. While reminiscent of the five previous models in the 3 Series lineage, the new BMW 3 Series clearly represents the future.

The aerodynamic efficiency of this latest model is so well tuned that even the details considered small by other manufacturers weigh heavily in the overall wind-slicing efficiency of the car. The vehicle's integral fog lamps, found near the sculpted front air dam, are actually wind buffers that allow the car to run massive tire and wheel packages that slightly jut out of the bodywork. The rear trunk deck of the 3, in conjunction with the multi-planar rear lights, act as spoilers that induce critical down force at high speeds, and as signal lamp "wipers" at the same time. Airflow around the rear of the vehicle is used to keep dirt and water from obscuring the rear brake lamps, thereby keeping them visible in even the worst weather conditions.

While the new BMW 3 Series is 15-percent larger than its predecessor, its trendsetting use of lightweight materials display higher chassis stiffness, lighter gross weight and better overall drag coefficients in the wind tunnel. The main purpose of the larger cabin is to provide more space for the "growing" customers of the 3. Studies have shown that the world's population is, in fact, getting taller. In this aspect, the 3 is growing with us, allowing current and future generations to experience the comfort, safety and dynamism of a pre-destined classic.

Earth - Mastering Terra Firma

A capable chassis and new approach to suspension allow the new 3 series to be planted firmly on any driving surface by virtue of three key systems.

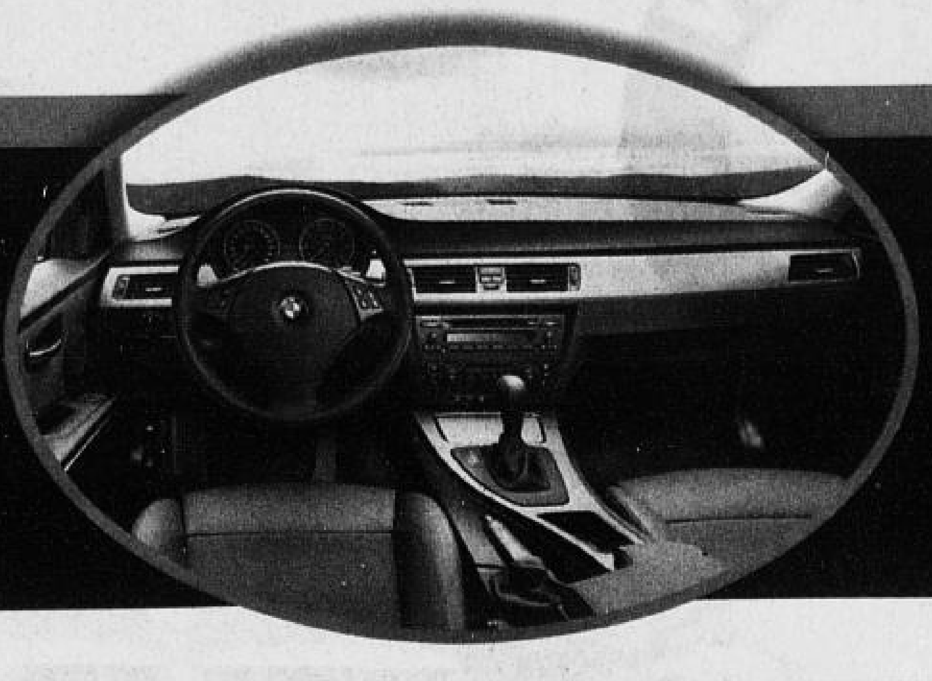
The new five-link rear suspension is an improvement of the already excellent suspension design of the E46. This advanced system operates by moving on a virtual pivot point that allows consistent and plush suspension operation independent of the actual movement of the physical control arms. In tandem with the redesigned rear is the aluminum front axel displaying improved strength and further overall weight savings. These allow drivers to have both a confident feel of the car during motivated driving situations and a comfortable ride in rough road conditions

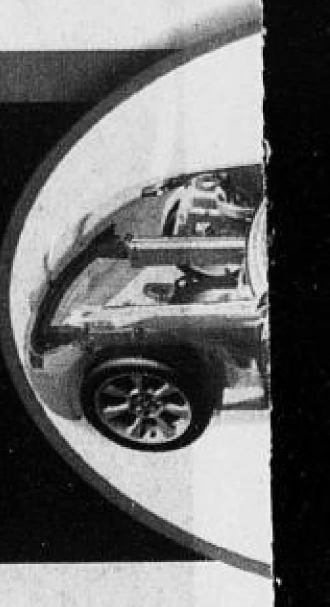
Dynamic Stability Control (DSC) and Dynamic Traction Control (DTC) have been hallmarks of the BMW driving experience for quite some time now. New system and software upgrades allow the latest versions of DSC and DTC to provide assistance to the driver in more varied and extreme conditions of driving. In DSC mode, the car's computer uses a combination of independent braking modulation on the four corners of the car along with Active Steering, provides drivers the capability to deal with emergency situations even at very high speeds.

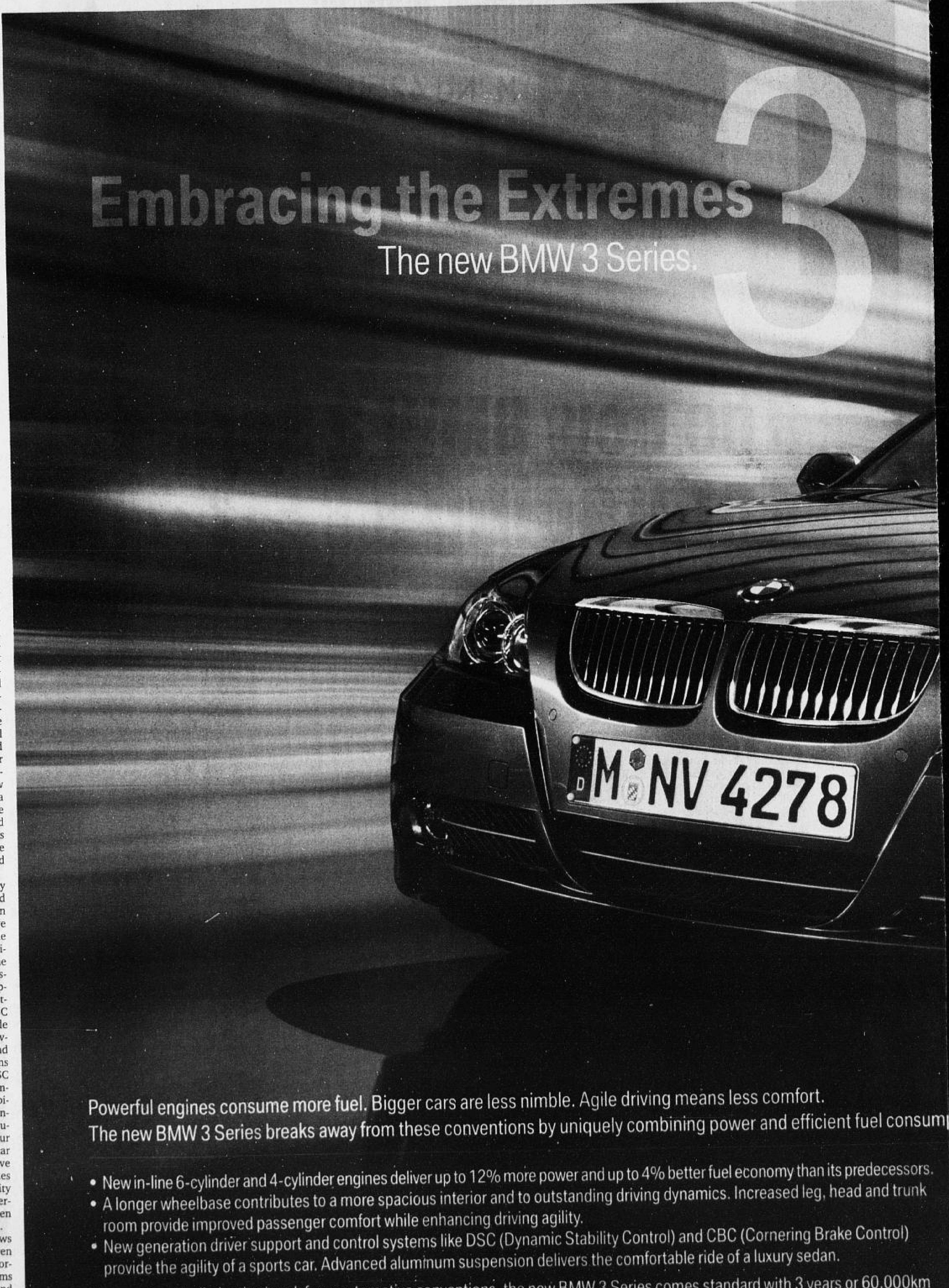
DTC also allows the car to be driven closer to its performance edge in terms of cornering and braking by intervening with the brakes and Active Steering split seconds later. This gives the driver the opportunity to drive in a more spirited fashion, allowing throttle steer while cornering and late braking. Both systems can be turned off and the 3 reverts to a pure driving platform that makes full use of its 50/50 front and rear weight distribution.

Braking in the new 3 Series is also improved. For instance, a new feature prepares the actual brake caliper for emergency stops and aggressive slowing by reading the throttle input of the car. When the driver lifts off his foot quickly from the accelerator pedal, the computer moves the calipers ever so slightly together - just barely hovering over the disc rotors. Braking times and distances are reduced by this system of brake anticipation. Additional stopping performance is also displayed when the car tries to brake with its wheels on surfaces with different levels of traction. Even with one side of the car on the

BMW/ H4





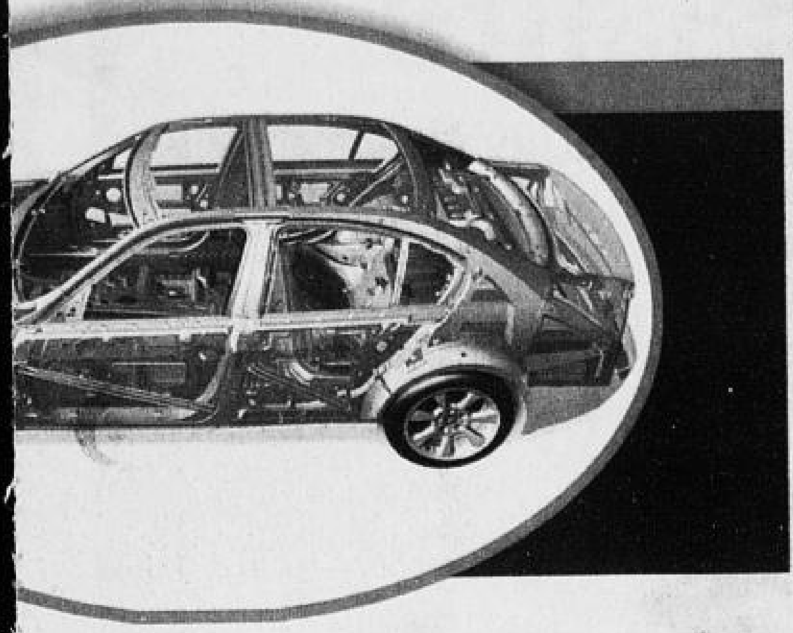


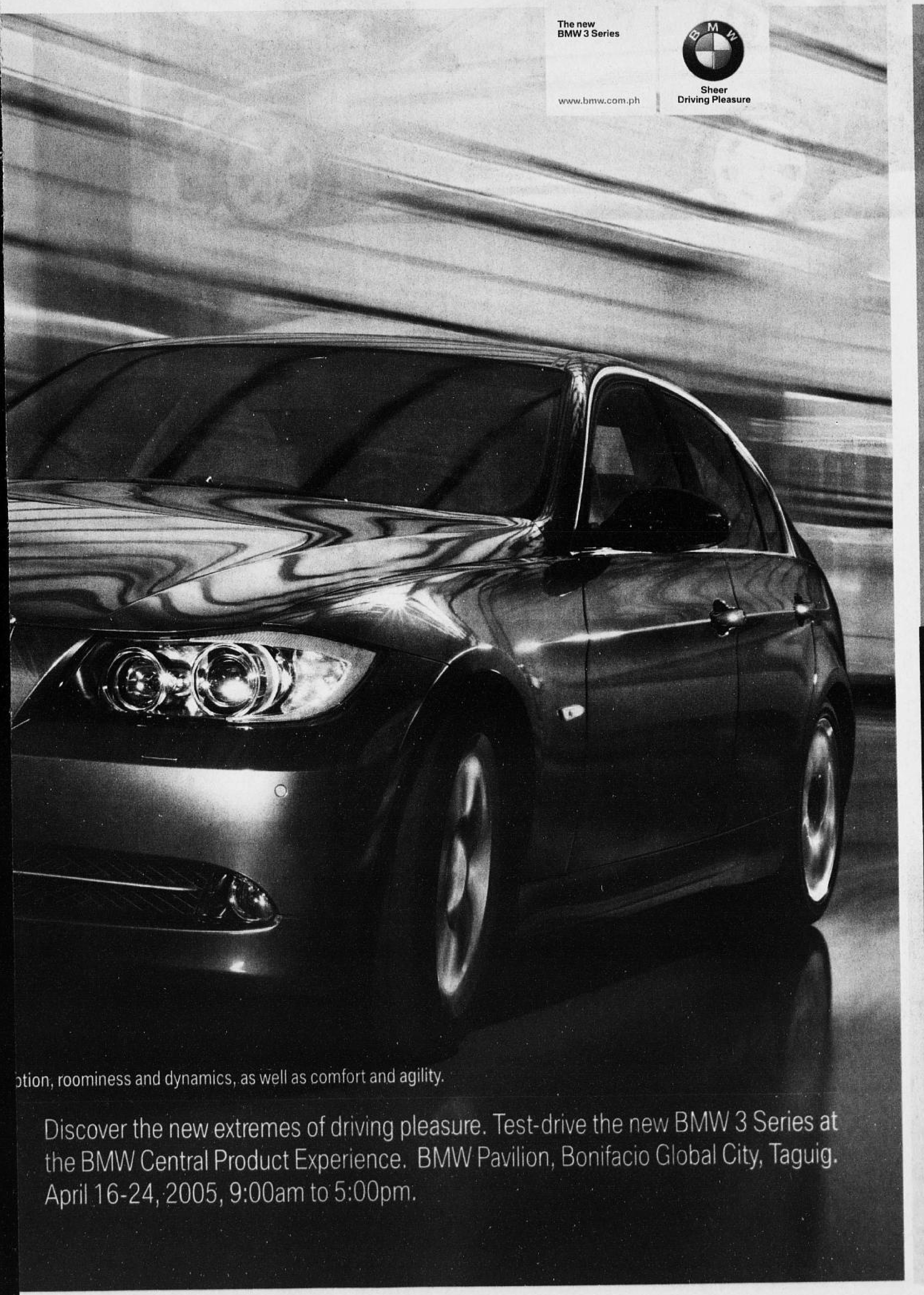
Powerful engines consume more fuel. Bigger cars are less nimble. Agile driving means less comfort.
The new BMW 3 Series breaks away from these conventions by uniquely combining power and efficient fuel consum

- New in-line 6-cylinder and 4-cylinder engines deliver up to 12% more power and up to 4% better fuel economy than its predecessors.
- A longer wheelbase contributes to a more spacious interior and to outstanding driving dynamics. Increased leg, head and trunk room provide improved passenger comfort while enhancing driving agility.
- New generation driver support and control systems like DSC (Dynamic Stability Control) and CBC (Cornering Brake Control) provide the agility of a sports car. Advanced aluminum suspension delivers the comfortable ride of a luxury sedan.

To complete its distinctive break from automotive conventions, the new BMW 3 Series comes standard with 3 years or 60,000km of maintenance and repair at no cost, through the BMW Service and Repair Inclusive.

cing the *extremes*





The new
BMW 3 Series

www.bmw.com.ph

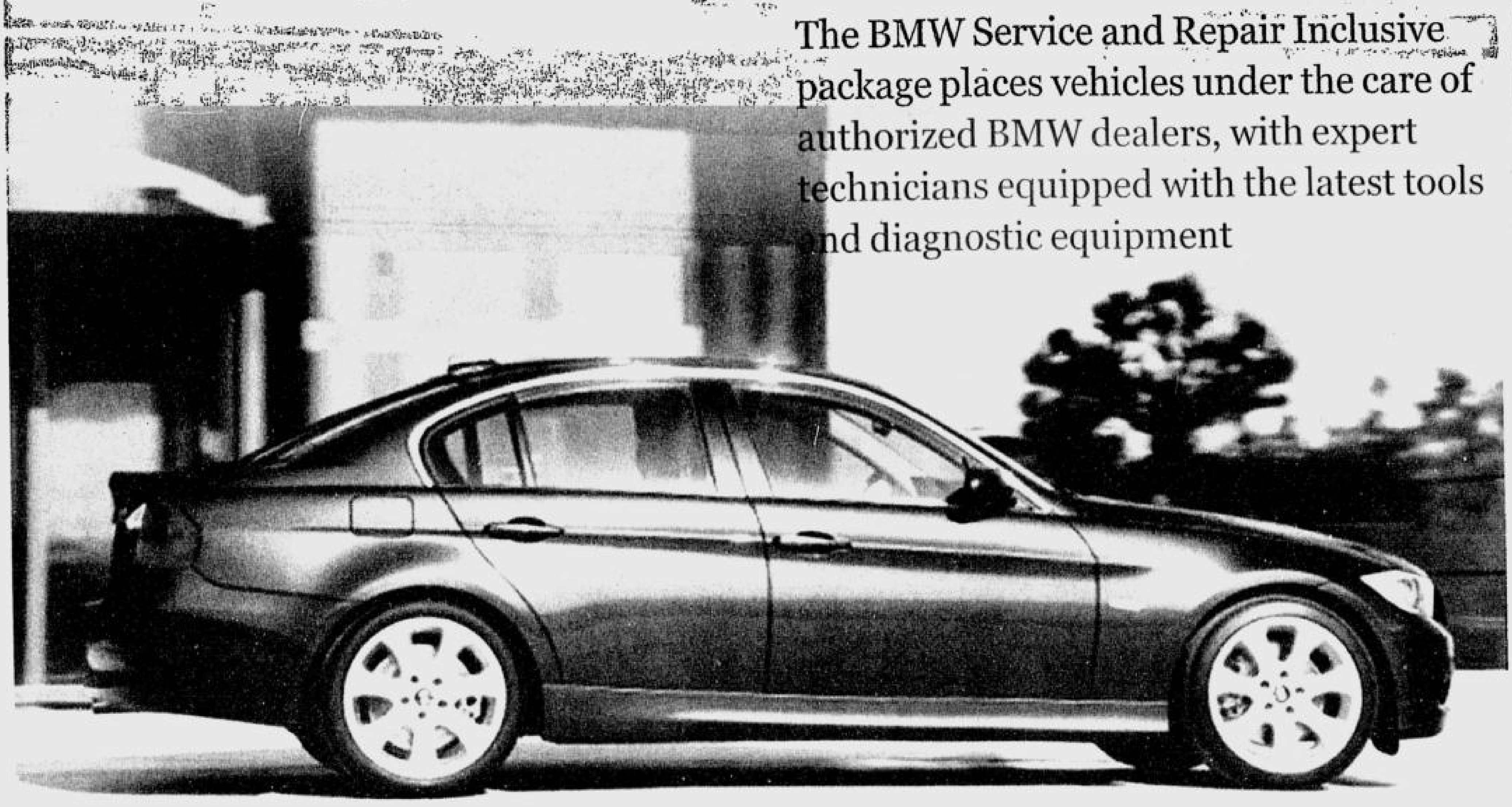
Sheer
Driving Pleasure

ption, roominess and dynamics, as well as comfort and agility.

Discover the new extremes of driving pleasure. Test-drive the new BMW 3 Series at the BMW Central Product Experience. BMW Pavilion, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. April 16-24, 2005, 9:00am to 5:00pm.

The new BMW 3 Series + Service and Repair Inclusive = sheer driving pleasure

The BMW Service and Repair Inclusive package places vehicles under the care of authorized BMW dealers, with expert technicians equipped with the latest tools and diagnostic equipment



THE NEW BMW 3 Series stands apart in its class, not only in terms of product substance, but also in terms of premium value.

As a first in the industry, the new BMW 3 Series comes as standard with Service and Repair Inclusive. With this innovative offer, the BMW ownership experience is further enhanced with cost-free comprehensive coverage of scheduled and unscheduled after sales service for three years or 60,000 km using original BMW parts and labor. The package also effectively extends the customer's right of repair beyond the warranty period.

The BMW Service and Repair Inclusive covers oil changes, servicing and replacement of air filters, microfilters, spark plugs, and brake fluid. The replacement of wear and tear parts, namely brake discs, brake linings and windscreen wiper blades are also included-provided they are not caused by improper use of the vehicle.

Under normal circumstances therefore, from the time that the customer drives his brand new BMW 3 Series out of the showroom, he only has to spend for fuel and possibly tires for the next three years-translating to zero maintenance and repair cost.

The BMW Service and Repair Inclusive package places vehicles under the care of authorized BMW dealers, with expert technicians equipped with the latest tools and diagnostic equipment. As an added convenience, busy owners don't have to be the one to personally bring in their car for maintenance, since there will be no payment required at the end of each scheduled service under the plan.

With this program, BMW offers stability and predictability of service costs, which is advantageous not only for individual buyers, but for companies with fleet cars as well. The Service and Repair Inclusive package can likewise be transferred to the next owner - contributing further to the BMW's high residual value.

The BMW 3 Series is now available in the Philippines, ahead of other markets worldwide. BMW customers have the exclusive opportunity to be among the first to experience, enjoy and own this most awaited luxury sport sedan by visiting the BMW Pavilion at the Fort Bonifacio Global City from April 16 to 24. Test drives will be available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The new BMW 3 Series: Embracing the extremes

From page H2

road and one side on the slippery gravel shoulder, the 3's brakes bring the car to a halt in a safe manner and almost in a straight line. These new brake functions greatly improve the safety of the driver and passengers while allowing both to travel in both comfort and confidence, in all conditions.

Water - Flowing engineering and design

Any sort of driving experience in the new BMW 3 Series can be best described as "flowing". All the systems function in an orchestrated manner, keeping the driver engaged and eager to enjoy the car's performance.

Wide-ranging driving conditions will bring out the true brilliance of this vehicle. Any level of driver, regardless of competence and disposition, will find the 3 Series attuned to his or her individual needs and wants. Push it to the edge, exploiting the heavy-hitting engine, and the car will still keep you within its performance envelope, under the care of its safety and braking systems. Ask it to crawl through horrendous traffic, and the luxury and comfort of this new BMW will keep you calm and mild mannered.

Like a stream of cold spring, the characteristics displayed by the 3 allow it to adapt to its environment. Beyond discussions of performance and styling, the overall design of the 3 gives it a dual character. Designed and executed as more subtle and stately than the sporting Z4 but more dynamic than its bigger brethren, the 5 Series, the 3 can service the weekly transportation needs of an upwardly mobile executive and then serve as his getaway tool for enjoyment and excitement.

Looking ahead

Balance is the key to the new 3 BMW series. In this latest member of the BMW family, we find that instead of compromise for the sake of palatability, advanced engineering, design and innovation take the lead. Each of the car's systems clearly point towards market leadership and class dominance. Yet it is only in the fine mixture of these capabilities that a higher state is achieved. Many other manufacturers may claim to lead with regards to a singular attribute, but cars that can excel at everything are truly rare.

The new BMW 3 Series is future perfect in the here and now.

THE DRIVING characteristics of the iconic BMW 3 Series represent a rich heritage that spans 40 years